

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Handbook Revision, Millennium Scholarship: Technical Updates**

**MEETING DATE: ARSA – June 8, 2017**

---

**2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

As required by Chapter 396 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS), existing Board policy sets forth provisions governing the administration of the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS). The GGMS is administered cooperatively by multiple entities, including local school districts, the Office of the State Treasurer and its Millennium Scholarship Office, the Board of Regents through the Chancellor’s Office, and the financial aid offices at each NSHE institution. The administration is complex and has evolved since the creation of the GGMS by the Nevada Legislature in 1999. Certain Board policies governing initial eligibility decisions that are necessarily within the jurisdiction of the school districts (or private/charter schools) need to be updated to reflect current practice.

**Policy Recommendation #1 – High School Courses Required for GGMS Eligibility**

Existing Board policy sets forth the high school core curriculum requirements for GGMS eligibility, per NRS 396.930, which requires the Board of Regents to “define the core curriculum that a student must complete in high school to be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship” (*Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.15 of the Handbook*):

High School Course	Units
English	4
Math (including Algebra II or higher)	4
Natural Science	3
Social Science and History	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

As the secondary education authorities/experts, school districts determine which classes to offer in high school and which of these courses meet Nevada requirements for graduation, the type of diploma the student receives, and GGMS eligibility. The **attached chart** compares the units required in English, math, science, etc... for the GGMS, the high school standard diploma and the high school advanced diploma. The school districts, private schools and charter schools are responsible for transmitting their respective lists of students eligible for the GGMS – based on their high school record/transcript – to the State Treasurer’s Office, as required under *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.5* of Board policy.

System staff recommends revising Board policy to reflect existing practice, streamline the administrative process, and, importantly, recognize the primary role of the school districts/private and charter schools with regard to the initial eligibility of their students for the GGMS under existing NRS and Board criteria for high school performance:

- 1. Core Curriculum: Advanced Diploma and “Natural” Science/“Social Science” Requirements** – Because the course requirements for the GGMS eligibility mirror the advanced diploma requirements, revise Board policy to provide that Nevada high school students who receive an advanced diploma are deemed to have met the GGMS core curriculum requirements and are thus eligible for the scholarship if all other eligibility requirements are met. Retain the existing GGMS core curriculum requirements for students who meet the curriculum requirements but may not have received the advanced diploma so that no student is unintentionally disadvantaged. In addition, revise these requirements to specify “science” instead of “natural science” and “social studies” instead of “social science,” as these terms are more consistent with the terminology used by school districts for high school courses and on high school transcripts and eliminates confusion in this area.
- 2. Determination of High School Courses that Meet GGMS Core Curriculum Requirements** - Board policy requires the NSHE Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs to develop procedures regarding the certification of high school courses that meet the GGMS core curriculum requirements. Currently, this process is accomplished through a statewide list of eligible high school courses updated annually by NSHE following submission by school districts, private schools and certain charter schools of their respective courses that they have determined to qualify for GGMS, and subsequent review of these submissions by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). Because decisions regarding high school course offerings and how they are categorized (English, math, science, etc...) on a high school student’s transcript necessarily reside at the secondary education level (school districts, NDE, etc.), revise Board policy to provide that Nevada school districts and private and charter high schools not associated with a school district shall determine whether the courses taken by a student while in high school, including dual enrollment and dual credit courses, and included on their transcript meet the GGMS core curriculum requirements.

3. **Update Language Requiring “Certification” of Lists of Eligible High School Graduates** – Board policy specifies that “Certification of eligibility for high school graduates will be established by a list provided by Nevada high schools” (*Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.5*). Update this language to reflect current practice under which Nevada school districts and private and charter high schools not associated with a school district provide to the State Treasurer their respective lists of GGMS eligible high school graduates. There is no “certification” process at the high school level, and the use of that term is unclear.

**Policy Recommendation #2 - Eligibility Appeals**

Existing Board policy provides for a standing Millennium Scholarship Appeals Committee appointed by the Chair of the Board for appeals related to initial eligibility on a case-by-case basis. However, there has not been a need to convene this committee since the first year after the creation of the GGMS as the appeal process has proven to be administrative. The Chancellor’s Office conducts an initial review of all appeals and has responded to eligibility questions based upon (1) the clear requirements set forth in NRS and Board policy, and (2) the objective facts of a student’s appeal relating to eligibility (transcript review, meeting the minimum GPA requirements, taking required courses, etc...). System staff recommends revising Board policy to reflect how appeals are currently handled.

**3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 9.13, 9.15 and 9.5* as described above. In addition, delete *Section 9.15.2* that provides an exception to the 4 units of math only for 2009 graduates who were not able to complete a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math because it wasn’t offered by their high school. This exception is no longer needed because this six-year eligibility period has expired for the class of 2009. (See the attached policy proposal.)

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

System staff recommends the policy revisions to clarify/ streamline processes related to the administration of the Millennium Scholarship and reflect existing practice.

**5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- The policy change supports on-going efforts by the State of Nevada, including the Governor’s Office and K-12, to create clear pathways to prepare high school students for success in college.
- The NSHE System Office analyzed the college-readiness of Nevada students from the graduating class of 2014 who received a standard diploma versus the advanced diploma and enrolled in an NSHE institution utilizing data available through the [Nevada P-12 to Workforce Research Data System \(NPWR\)](#). The analysis revealed lower remedial placement rates, higher college continuation rates and higher persistence rates for students who receive the advanced diploma compared to students who receive the standard diploma.
- The advanced diploma course requirements mirror the GGMS course requirements. Deeming students who receive the advance diploma eligible for the GGMS does not change the rigor required for GGMS eligibility and will encourage students to pursue this diploma and better prepare them for college level courses. Further it facilitates the administration of the GGMS for school districts and counselors who now must evaluate the courses on each individual student’s transcript to determine if the student meets the GGMS course requirements.
- Changing “natural science” to “science” for purposes of GGMS initial eligibility is better reflective of the high school terminology used for science courses in high school. High school transcripts do not distinguish between “natural science” and “science” and the terminology has resulted in some confusion with regard to which science courses qualify for GGMS eligibility, especially in cases involving dual enrollment.
- Currently, the determination for courses that meet GGMS core requirements is made at the school district level. The revision of Board policy with regard to *Sections 9.15.3 and 9.5* align with current practice.
- Removing references to an appeals committee and setting forth the process for the Chancellor’s Office to review more accurately reflects the existing administrative practice and eliminates possible misperceptions or confusion on how student appeals are reviewed.

**6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been presented.

**7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

None have been presented.

**8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 9.13, 9.15 and 9.5*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No    
 Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**

**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTIONS 9.13 and 9.15**

**Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship:  
Eligibility Appeals and High School Core Curriculum Requirements**

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

9.13 Appeals related to initial eligibility *may be submitted by the student to the Chancellor’s Office for review and determination of eligibility.*

*The Chancellor’s Office will review the appeal and place the student on the list of eligible students if, based upon all information provided, the student meets all eligibility criteria. If the student does not meet all eligibility criteria, the Chancellor’s Office will deny the appeal* [~~shall be handled on a case-by-case basis by a standing Millennium Scholarship Appeals Committee appointed by the Chair of the Board of Regents. The Committee shall consist of representatives of the Board of Regents, the NSHE’s universities, state colleges and community colleges, one representative from an eligible non-NSHE institution, and the Governor and State Treasurer or their designees].~~

....

9.15 Core Curriculum Requirements

9.15.1 The Board recognizes the importance of a rigorous high school curriculum in adequately preparing students to succeed in college-level courses. Therefore, *except as otherwise in this section for recipients of an advanced diploma*, a student who graduates from a Nevada high school in Spring 2009 and thereafter must successfully complete the following curriculum in high school to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship:

<b>High School Course</b>	<b>Units</b>
English	4
Math (including Algebra II or higher)	4
[Natural] Science	3
Social [Science] <i>Studies</i> and History	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

*Nevada high school students who receive an advanced diploma (as defined under Nevada Administrative Code 389.663) in Spring 2017 and thereafter shall be deemed to have met the core curriculum requirements and deemed eligible for the scholarship if all other eligibility requirements established in this Chapter are met.*

9.15.2 [A student who graduates from a Nevada high school in 2009, who was not able to complete the fourth year math requirement established in Subsection 1 because it was not offered by the high school from which he or she graduated and the course was not accessible from an NSHE institution, shall be deemed eligible for the scholarship if all other eligibility requirements established in this Chapter are met.

~~9.15.3~~ *As part of their role to establish the list of eligible high school graduates under Section 9.5 of this Chapter, Nevada school districts and private and charter high schools not associated with a school district shall determine whether the courses taken by a student while in high school, including dual enrollment and dual credit courses, and included on their transcript meet the core curriculum requirements. [The Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs shall develop procedures regarding the certification of high school courses that meet the core curriculum requirements established in Subsection 1.]*

....

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 9.5**  
Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship:  
List of Eligible High School Graduates

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

- 9.5 *Nevada school districts and private and charter high schools not associated with a school district shall provide to the State Treasurer a list of eligible high school graduates.* [~~Certification of eligibility for high school graduates will be established by a list provided by Nevada high schools.~~] In other circumstances, evidence may be submitted by applicants to the Millennium Scholarship Office.

## COMPARISON OF REQUIREMENTS FOR NEVADA DIPLOMAS AND THE GOVERNOR GUINN MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP

	<b>Standard Diploma*</b> (NAC 389.664)	<b>Advanced Diploma*</b> (NAC 389.663)	<b>Millennium Scholarship</b> <i>(Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.15 of the Board of Regents' Handbook)</i>
American Government	1	1	3 ("Social Science & History")
American History	1	1	
Social Studies	1	1	
Arts & Humanities, JROTC, or Career & Technical Education	1	1	
English, including reading, composition and writing	4	4	4
Health Education	.5	.5	
Mathematics	3	4	4 (including Algebra II or higher)
Physical Education	2	2	
Use of Computers	.5	.5	
Science	2	3	3 ("Natural Science")
Electives	7.5	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>GPA</b>	(check with local school districts)	Overall 3.25 weighted or unweighted on 4.0 scale	Overall 3.25 weighted or unweighted on a 4.0 scale (classes of 2007 or later, per <i>Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.1</i> and NRS 396.930)

\* Depending on graduation year, students must also pass the required *High School Proficiency Examinations* or *End of Course (EOC) Examinations Requirements*, as well as participate in the *College and Career Ready Assessment* (as of 2017, the ACT).