

# **MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

## **MEETING BOOKLET**

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Place: Video Teleconference

## **Maryland Higher Education Commission**

Catherine J. “Cassie” Motz, Chair

Chike Aguh, Vice Chair

Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.

Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.

Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.

Barbara Kerr Howe

Ray Serrano, Ph.D.

Rebecca Taber Staehelin

Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.

Praise Alayode, Student Commissioner

**Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.**

**Secretary**

**Wes Moore**  
**Governor**

**Aruna Miller**  
**Lt. Governor**



**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
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**Maryland Higher Education Commission  
 Meeting Agenda**

**Governor**  
 Wes Moore

**Lt. Governor**  
 Aruna Miller

**Secretary**  
 Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.

**Commission Chair**  
 Cassie Motz

**Commission Vice Chair**  
 Chike Aguh

**Commissioners**  
 Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.  
 Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.  
 Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.  
 Barbara Kerr Howe  
 Ray Serrano, Ph.D.  
 Rebecca Taber Staehelin  
 Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.  
 Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.  
 Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.  
 Praise Alayode, Student  
 Commissioner

**Principal Counsel**  
 Kimberly Smith Ward

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday  
 April 23, 2025

**PLACE:** Virtual  
 (via Google Meet)

|   | <b>Page</b> | <b>Action<br/>Item</b> |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| <b>Call to Order</b>  |             |                        |
| <b>Chair’s and Secretary’s Remarks</b>  |             |                        |
| <b>Public Comments</b>  |             |                        |
| <b>Commission Meeting Minutes Approval</b>  |             |                        |
| • March 26, 2025.....   | 1           | *                      |
| <b>Update on the Maryland State Plan for Higher Education –<br/>         Vice Chair Chike Aguh and Elena Quiroz-Livanis</b> |             |                        |
| <b>Federal Policy Update – Kamal Essaheb and Elena Quiroz-Livanis</b>   |             |                        |
| <b>Presentation – J. B. Holston</b>   |             |                        |
| <b>Department of External Relations – Derrick Coley</b>   |             |                        |
| • Legislative Session Wrap-Up   |             |                        |
| • General Updates   |             |                        |
| <b>Update on Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Dr. Emily Dow</b>  |             |                        |
| <b>Department of Finance &amp; Administration – Geoffrey Newman</b>   |             |                        |
| • Update on FY 2025 and FY 2026 Budget Actions –<br>Geoffrey Newman.....  | 7           |                        |
| • Office of Student Financial Assistance – Al Dorsett   |             |                        |
| ○ Approval of Proposed Amendments to<br>COMAR 13B.08.20 – Cybersecurity Public<br>Service Scholarship Program.....          | 11          | *                      |
| ○ Update on FAFSA Completion  |             |                        |
| ○ Scholarship Awarding Update   |             |                        |
| <b>Adjournment</b>  |             |                        |

*\*The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 @ 10 a.m.*

**Maryland Higher Education Commission**  
Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2025  
10:00 a.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 via video teleconference (Google Meet).

**Commission members present:**

|                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Catherine J. “Cassie” Motz, Chair | Ray Serrano, Ph.D.                   |
| Chike Aguh, Vice Chair            | Rebecca Taber Staehelin              |
| Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.             | Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.            |
| Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.           | Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.             |
| Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.     | Praise Alayode, Student Commissioner |
| Barbara Kerr Howe                 |                                      |

**Commission members absent:**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D. |  |
|-------------------------|--|

**Staff members present:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Sanjay Rai, Ph.D. | Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D. |
| Bryson Barksdale  | Samuel Durai Pandian   |
| Anthony Reiner    | Kimberly Smith Ward    |
| Al Dorsett        | Daniel Schuster        |
| Victoria Johnson  | Deborah Ing            |
| Everette Jackson  | Geoffrey Newman        |
| Alexandra Nguyen  | Elena Quiroz-Livanis   |
| Thomas Waters     | Alexis Merriman        |
| Khia Poteat       | Lyndsay Silva, D.P.A.  |
| Glenda Abney      | Younger Oliver         |

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Motz** at approximately 10:00 a.m. A meeting quorum was established with eleven (11) out of twelve (12) members present.

**Chair’s Remarks**

**Chair Motz** thanked agency staff for their hard work amidst challenging and uncertain times. Today’s agenda reflects the breadth and depth of the work undertaken by MHEC.

**Secretary’s Remarks**

**Secretary Rai** welcomed everyone to today’s meeting. He remarked that, in light of the many recent federal policy changes, MHEC reaffirms its mission to put students first. Earlier this month, MHEC hosted a virtual briefing with the presidents of institutions to update them on the recent federal policy changes. He then gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Commission Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Commissioner Burnim** made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 26, 2025, and **Vice Chair Aguh** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on the Maryland State Plan for Higher Education – Information Item**

**Vice Chair Aguh** shared an update on the Maryland State Plan for Higher Education. With the changing federal landscape, equity will be more important than ever before. He remarked that transparency will be a big part of the process, ensuring that the public and various stakeholders are always aware of what is happening. Secondly, they aim to be inclusive, seeking input from various groups and organizations in the community and industry. Third, the State Plan will be an ambitious plan that puts students first. In the coming months, various speakers who are national experts will be invited to present their work and findings on the direction of higher education in our country.

### **Presentation: The Future of Work & Learning – Information Item**

**Vice Chair Aguh** introduced Mr. Matt Sigelman of The Burning Glass Institute to present this item. The Burning Glass Institute is an organization that started 3 years ago. It is a fully independent, non-profit organization that is focused on understanding the intersection of the future of work and the future of learning. They do a lot of work with higher education systems and institutions. Mr. Sigelman shared some insights from his work and research. In a Gallup poll that asked how important is a college degree today, the percentage of respondents who answered “very important” dropped from 74% in 2013 to 39% in 2023. Yet, a college degree still pays off and, though credentials work, it is important to have the right ones. In some jobs, artificial intelligence (AI) will shrink entry-level opportunity and, in others, it will drive greater access. AI will reshape key skills for each career. The value of a degree is not just about the university and major anymore. Rather, much of the value of a degree today is in the skills that students learn along the way. The Commissioners asked questions about Mr. Sigelman’s presentation.

### **Pathways into Teaching for Federal Employees – Information Item**

**Chair Motz** recognized Ms. Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Deputy Secretary, to present this item. Governor Moore gave a directive at the end of February to MSDE (Maryland State Department

of Education) and MHEC to collaborate in creating pathways to help displaced federal workers transition into teaching careers in Maryland. This will also address educator shortage in the state. The initiative, also known as “Feds to Eds” will involve work with the state Department of Labor and the Governor’s Office for Children. A more in-depth update will be provided at the next Commission meeting, after a report is presented to the Governor. At this time, MSDE and MHEC are working to finalize a framework for the “Feds to Eds” initiative within the Governor’s 45-day directive. The Commissioners asked questions about the presentation.

### **Approval of 2025 Workforce Needs Analysis – Action Item**

**Chair Motz** recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, to present the first annual Workforce Needs Analysis, which is required by statute as an appendix to the Maryland State Plan for Higher Education. The 4 draft appendices are found on the MHEC website and were developed in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Labor and the Maryland Department of Commerce, with input from the segments of higher education via the Segmental Advisory Council, the Program Review Process Advisory Council, and the Advisory Council on Workforce Shortage. During the 2024 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1244 (CH0963 of the Acts of 2024), which requires the Maryland Department of Labor (“MDL”), the Maryland Department of Commerce (“Commerce”), and MHEC to collectively define, identify, and compile data regarding the workforce needs in the State. The appendix identifies (a) the current and emerging state and regional workforce needs and (b) any specific academic programs that institutions could develop to fulfill or support the identified needs.

These drafted appendices represent a significant step forward in collaborative efforts to align Maryland’s post-secondary education system with the workforce demands of today and the future. Appendix A is a list of in-demand occupations in Maryland requiring more than a high school diploma and projected to have significant job openings. Appendix B is a list that maps Maryland’s academic programs to identify in-demand occupations. Appendix C is a list of emerging workforce needs, and Appendix D is a list of emerging workforce need programs.

The workforce needs analysis will serve as a valuable tool. Institutions can use the data to create new programs or update existing ones to align with workforce trends. It can also be used to avoid unnecessary program duplication and help ensure that new academic programs are developed with labor market demand metrics in mind. Additionally, institutions can explore joint programs and partnerships with industry based on identified needs.

Based on feedback, future iterations will expand data sources, improve usability, and refine methodology to ensure greater accuracy and relevance. Dr. Dow recommended that the Commission adopt the four (4) draft appendices as the “2025 Workforce Needs Analysis” as required by Education Article §11-105. **Commissioner Burnim** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Dukes** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Institutions of Higher Education Program Review: Secretary Actions for July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 – Information Item**

Dr. Dow provided an overview of actions concerning program objections, new degree programs, new certificate programs, new areas of concentration, substantial modifications to existing programs, non-substantial modifications to existing programs, withdrawn proposals, institutional program partnerships, and proposals not approved or recommended.

**Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Institutions of Higher Education Institution Review: Secretary Actions for July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 – Information Item**

Dr. Dow provided an overview of actions concerning in-state institution actions, out-of-state institution actions, out-of-state online registration actions, NC-SARA actions, religious exempt actions, collegiate complaints, a Title IX reimbursement, institutional site visits, other in-state application, and institutional questionnaires.

**Department of Academic Affairs – Biannual Report on Private Career Schools: Actions for July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 – Information Item**

Dr. Dow provided an overview of actions concerning three (3) new schools, approvals of change of location, a certificate renewal, a notice of deficiency, and training provider questionnaires.

**Department of Academic Affairs – FY 2024 Biannual Report on VA Education Benefits: MD SAA Actions for April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024 – Information Item**

Dr. Dow provided an overview of the Maryland State Approving Agency's actions concerning program actions, other program actions, supervisory visits, an inspection visit, and technical assistance activities.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.03 – Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship – Action Item**

**Chair Motz** recognized Mr. Geoffrey Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, who asked Mr. Al Dorsett, Executive Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, to present this item. During the 2024 legislative session, changes were made to the Riley Scholarship administered by the Office of the Student Financial Assistance (Ch. 223/HB 899 and Ch. 224/SB 691). The legislative changes expanded eligibility for the scholarship to increase recruitment and retention of career and volunteer firefighters and emergency services personnel. Specifically, the legislation eliminated the requirement that an applicant enroll in an undergraduate degree or certificate program. Under the current statute, an applicant may receive the scholarship for enrollment in any course at a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education.

The proposed amendments change the regulations for this scholarship to align them with the statutory changes made by the legislature. Mr. Dorsett recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed regulatory amendments to the Riley Scholarship; and (2) authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of

AELR (Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review) and DSD (Division of State Documents). **Commissioner Howe** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Williams** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.23 – Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship – Action Item**

Mr. Dorsett presented this item. The Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship was created in 2017 and was designed to provide financial assistance to students enrolling in an approved non-credit certificate program leading to apprenticeships, employment, licensure, or job skill enhancement only at a participating Maryland Community College. A workforce sequence is a series of non-credit courses or training programs designed to provide individuals with the skills and certifications needed for in-demand jobs in various industries, such as healthcare, information technology, skilled trades, and transportation. The regulations that implemented the scholarship created a decentralized program, meaning that OSFA allocates funds to community colleges, and the community colleges make scholarship awards to students of up to \$2,000 each. The funds are divided on a *pro rata* basis, based on each community college's share of the total enrollment in workforce sequences across the State.

The proposed amendments make a technical adjustment to the allocation method for the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship. Under the revised regulations, community colleges will receive initial funding notifications by August 15. Funds will be allocated annually based on each college's proportional share of total full-time enrollment (FTE) in workforce development sequences, as reported in the most recent CC3 report. Initially, colleges will receive half of their calculated annual allocation, with the remaining funds to be distributed at a later date determined by the Office. After the initial disbursement, remaining funds will be distributed as follows:

- 1) Colleges that have awarded at least 66% of their initial funds by December 31 will receive half of the remaining allocation on a date set by the Office.
- 2) Colleges that have awarded 95% of their initial funds before December 31 may request an earlier second disbursement at the Office's discretion.
- 3) Colleges awarding less than 66% by December 31 must consult with the Office. If they do not anticipate needing the full remaining amount, they may allow the Office to retain and reallocate those funds.
- 4) Reallocated funds will be distributed to colleges based on their proportional share of awarded funds as of December 31.
- 5) The Office will notify colleges of any reallocated funds by January 21.

Mr. Dorsett recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed regulatory amendments to the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship; and (2) authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD. **Commissioner Burnim** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Thompson** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.



## **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Dukes** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and **Commissioner Thompson** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Approved by the Commission:

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Catherine J. "Cassie" Motz, Chair



**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**Governor**  
Wes Moore

**Lt. Governor**  
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**Secretary**  
Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.

**Commission Chair**  
Cassie Motz

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Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.  
Praise Alayode, Student  
Commissioner

**Principal Counsel**  
Kimberly Smith Ward

**DATE:** April 23, 2025  
**TO:** Maryland Higher Education Commissioners  
**FROM:** Geoffrey Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration  
**SUBJECT:** General Assembly FY 2025 and 2026 Budget Actions

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During the 2025 legislative session, the General assembly took several actions on both the FY 2025 and the FY 2026 budgets. This information in this report highlights actions taken by the General Assembly in the FY 2025 and FY 2026 budgets for the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

The report provides a summary of decisions made on both funding levels for programs as well as language added to the budget requesting that the Maryland Higher Education Commission report on programs within the budget.

MHEC Budget Actions by the General Assembly  
April 23, 2025

FY 2025 budget

The General Assembly reduced the Promise Scholarship by \$1,500,000, leaving \$13,500,000 for the program.

The Teaching Fellows for Maryland program for FY 2026 was reduced by \$4,000,000, leaving \$14,000,000.

The Teacher Development and Retention program was reduced by \$8,000,000, leaving \$2,000,000.

The Maryland Loan Assistance Payment Program for Police Officers was reduced by \$4,500,000, leaving \$500,000.

The Maryland Police Officers Scholarship Program was reduced by \$4,500,000, leaving \$500,000.

FY 2026 budget

MHEC receives \$13 million for General Administration for the agency.

MHEC also received two new positions: One Assistant Attorney General; One Staff Specialist I for the Next Generation Scholars Program.

The Joseph A. Sellinger program provides \$73.3 million to the private nonprofit colleges and universities.

The John A. Cade program provides \$404.5 million to the local community colleges.

The retirement benefits for the community colleges was reduced by \$9 million, for a total of \$70.5 million.

The Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Assistance program receives \$138.7 million.

The Promise scholarship was reduced by \$1.5 million, leaving \$13.5 million.

The Teaching Fellows for Maryland program for FY 2026 was reduced by \$4 million, leaving \$14 million.

The Teacher Development and Retention Program was reduced by \$8 million, leaving \$10 million.

The Maryland Loan Assistance Payment Program for Police Officers was reduced by \$3 million, leaving \$2 million.

The Maryland Police Officers Scholarship Program was reduced by \$3 million, leaving \$2 million.

Lowered the Cap on the Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit from \$18 million to \$9 million.

**Impact of Credit Completion Requirement on Financial Aid Awards:** The committees are interested in the impact that the 30-credit-hour requirement had on students in the 2024-2025 academic year and the 2025-2026 awarding year, specifically if students are meeting the requirement in order to receive the full amount of award, how many students had their awards prorated, and how many students lost eligibility. The report should also include the graduation rates of students who completed 30 credit hours compared to those who completed less than 30 credit hours. The report should provide summary data by segment (community colleges, four-year public, and independent institutions) and by institution. The report should also identify how the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) alerts Educational Excellence Award (EEA) recipients that they are in danger of losing their award. The report should identify the updated funding disbursement, by EEA award type and by total credit attainment grouping, for the students from the most recent review cycle as well as what the total funding amount was, by EEA award type, prior to those students having their award funding amounts revised.  
Due

| <b>Information Request</b>   | <b>Author</b> | <b>Due Date</b>   |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Report on impact of credit completion requirements on financial aid awards | MHEC          | December 12, 2025 |

**Next Generation Scholars (NGS) Postsecondary Outcomes:** The committees remain interested in determining how many NGS students met the eligibility requirements and later enrolled in a postsecondary institution. The report should identify the number of NGS seniors for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years, the number of NGS seniors who successfully met all of the eligibility requirements, the number of eligible NGS seniors receiving a guaranteed access award, and the number of seniors who later enrolled in a postsecondary institution of higher education in either the summer session or the fall semester and identify to which higher education segment those students enrolled.

| <b>Information Request</b>                               | <b>Author</b> | <b>Due Date</b>  |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| Report on postsecondary outcomes for NGS senior students | MHEC          | December 1, 2025 |

**Educational Excellence Awards Program Details:** The committees are interested in understanding more about the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards (EEA) program. The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) submit a report providing information on the EEA program with detail separately for the Guaranteed Access Grant and Educational Assistance Grant. The report shall provide data for fiscal 2025 detailing the number of new and renewal awards separately by month for each program; dollar amounts awarded and paid to the institution for new and renewal awardees in each program; the amount of unspent appropriation transferred to the Need-Based Student Financial Assistance Fund at the close of the fiscal year; and the average amount of time between when the student accepts an award and when the account of the student is credited and, if different, the average amount of time between when the student accepts an award and payment to the institution. In

addition, MHEC shall discuss efforts to notify applicants in a timely manner about the status of the application and the determination of receipt of an award.

| <b>Information Request</b>                        | <b>Author</b> | <b>Due Date</b>  |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Report on data and information of the EEA program | MHEC          | December 8, 2025 |

**Guaranteed Access Grant and Individuals in Informal Kinship Care:** The committees are interested in understanding barriers for individuals in informal kinship care in receiving Guaranteed Access Grants in a timely manner. The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), in collaboration with Financial Assistance Advisory Council (FAAC) and nonprofit organizations that participate in the Next Generation Scholars program, submit a report that reviews the current process and timing for determining student financial assistance eligibility, including the dependency override process, for individuals in informal kinship care and examines options to make changes to the process so that eligibility is determined as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms are received.

| <b>Information Request</b>  | <b>Authors</b>   | <b>Due Date</b>  |
|---|--|------------------|
| Report on the process to determine eligibility for financial aid for individuals in informal kinship care | MHEC<br>FAAC<br>Nonprofit Organizations for Next Generation Scholars | December 1, 2025 |

**Outreach to Police Officers and Probation Agents:** The committees are interested in the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s (MHEC) outreach to police officers and probation agents about the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program. The committees request that MHEC submit a report identifying communication initiatives for these programs including a targeted communication campaign to advertise these financial aid programs to current and aspiring police officers and probation agents within the State. The report shall provide information on:

- how often the website was updated for each program;
- the number of high schools, colleges, police departments, and probation offices notified about each program;
- frequency of communication (in-person, phone calls, e-mails, and mail) with high schools, colleges, police departments, and probation offices about each program; and
- other communication efforts to reach potentially eligible recipients.

| <b>Information Request</b>   | <b>Author</b> | <b>Due Date</b>   |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Report on outreach initiatives to police officers and probation agents for financial aid | MHEC          | December 19, 2025 |



**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**Governor**  
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Praise Alayode, Student  
Commissioner

**Principal Counsel**  
Kimberly Smith Ward

**DATE:** April 23, 2025  
**TO:** Maryland Higher Education Commissioners  
**FROM:** Al Dorsett, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance  
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.20 –  
Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program

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During the 2022 legislative session, changes were made to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program administered through the Maryland Higher Education Commission by the Office of the Student Financial Assistance (Ch. 209/HB 24). The legislative changes expanded eligibility for the scholarship beginning with the 2023-2024 program application period to include part-time students as eligible to apply to the program as well as expanding the years of eligibility for up to 6 years for students enrolled part-time.

Under the current regulations, part-time applicants are excluded and undergraduate students are considered full-time if they enroll in at least 12 credits. Graduate students are considered full-time if they enroll in at least 9 credits. The proposed regulations have been updated to include program eligibility for part-time applicants, update the definition for both full-time and part-time enrollment for both undergraduate and graduate students, and expand the maximum timeframe a part-time student may be eligible for the award.

A copy of the enacted bill is enclosed for your reference. The attached proposed amendments change the regulations for this scholarship to align them with the statutory changes made by the legislature.

The proposed amendments have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorney General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act and are now enclosed for your review and approval. Upon your approval, proposed regulations and regulatory amendments are submitted to the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Commission:

- (1) Approve for publication in the Maryland Register the enclosed proposed regulatory amendments to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program; and
- (2) Authorize its Assistant Attorney General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

# Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

## SUBTITLE 08 FINANCIAL AID

### Chapter 20 Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105~~(a)~~, 18-204~~(e)~~, ~~18-3503~~, and ~~18-3506~~Title 18, Subtitle 35, Annotated Code of Maryland

#### .02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(2) “Cybersecurity program” means a credit-bearing degree or certificate program that:

(a) Is approved by the Commission under Education Article, §11-206, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(b) Has been identified by the Secretary as directly relevant to cybersecurity and published on the Commission website.

(3) “Director” means the Executive Director of the Office.

(4) “Education expenses” mean:

(a) Tuition and mandatory fees;

~~(b) Mandatory fees~~; and

~~(c) Costs of room and board.~~

(5) “Eligible institution” means: ~~a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education that operates in the State under Education Article, §§11-201 and 11-201.1, Annotated Code of Maryland.~~

(a) A community college in the State;

(b) A public senior higher education institution in the State; or

(c) A private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that:

(i) Is approved to operate by the Commission under Education Article, §11-202, Annotated Code of Maryland; or

(ii) May operate without a Certificate of Approval from the Commission under §11-202.1(a), Annotated Code of Maryland.

(6) “Extenuating circumstances” mean a documented disability, including pregnancy, or a documented extended illness, that prevents a recipient from fulfilling a scholarship requirement.

(7) “Full-time” means ~~enrollment at an eligible institution in:~~

(a) ~~Enrollment at an eligible institution in~~ At least 12 credits per semester in a certificate or undergraduate degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship; or

(b) ~~At least 9 credits per semester~~ Classification by an eligible institution as a full-time student in a graduate certificate, graduate degree, or doctoral degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship.

(8) “Local Educational Agency” has the meaning stated in 20 U.S.C. §1401(19).

~~(9)~~ “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(10) “Part-time” means:



(a) Enrollment at an eligible institution in at least 6 credits, but fewer than 12 credits, per semester in an undergraduate certificate or degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship; or

(b) Classification by an eligible institution as a part-time student in a graduate certificate or degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship.

~~(911)~~ “Secretary” means the Secretary of Higher Education.

~~(1012)~~ “Scholarship” means a Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship under this chapter.

### **.03 Student Eligibility.**

A. Subject to the State budget, the Office annually shall determine a student’s eligibility to receive a scholarship.

B. An applicant is eligible for a scholarship if the applicant:

(1) Is enrolled full-time or part-time at an eligible institution in a cybersecurity program;

(2) ~~Is within 2 years of graduation from the cybersecurity program~~ Has earned a minimum of 25 percent of the credits required to complete the cybersecurity program;

(3) Has maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;

(4) Has not received a federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service, regardless of whether the applicant has applied for a federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service;

(5) Either:

(a) Attends a public eligible institution, and has been determined eligible for in-State tuition by the institution; or

(b) Attends a private nonprofit eligible institution, and would qualify for in-State tuition under the provisions of Education Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(6) Timely files an application and any required supporting documentation with the Office.

### **.04 Application Process.**

A. A student shall apply annually to the Office to be eligible for a scholarship in the form prescribed by the Office.

B. Time of Submission. An application and required documentation received by the Office after July 1 is untimely and shall not be considered.

C. An applicant shall submit the following required documentation:

(1) Copy of the applicant’s official college or university transcript;

(2) Proof from the eligible institution that the applicant is enrolled full-time and is within 2-3 years from graduation in a cybersecurity program, or is enrolled part-time and is within 6 years from graduation in a cybersecurity program; and

(3) Certification from the institution that the applicant has not received or applied for a Federal ~~Cybereorps~~ CyberCorps Scholarship for Service.

~~D. For the 2018—2019 award year only, applicants shall apply and submit all required documentation to the Office by February 1, 2019.~~

### **.05 Scholarship Renewal.**

A. Subject to Regulation .06 of this chapter, ~~an applicant shall be eligible to renew~~ a scholarship shall be renewed for a subsequent year if the applicant: continues to meet the requirements of Regulation .03 of this chapter.

~~(1) Timely submits an application under Regulation .04 of this chapter; and~~

~~(2) Continues to meet the requirements of Regulation .03 of this chapter.~~

B. A recipient enrolled full-time may receive a scholarship for a maximum of 23 years.

C. A recipient enrolled part-time may receive a scholarship for a maximum of 6 years.

**.06 Amount of Scholarship.**

A. An annual scholarship for a full-time student shall be in the amount prescribed by the Director, ~~which may not exceed the recipient's education expenses, and shall be appropriately prorated by the Director for the part-time status of a recipient.~~

B. The amount of an annual scholarship may not exceed the recipient's education expenses.

~~B. Priority of Scholarship Awards. Priority for scholarships shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible under this chapter.~~

**.07 Selection and Notification of Recipients.**

A. Renewal Awards. Priority for scholarships shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible under Regulation .05 of this chapter.

~~AB. If funds remain after awards are made to students under §A of this regulation, E~~eligible applicants shall be ranked on the basis of cumulative grade point average.

~~BC. Grades for credits earned for an applicant attending a public or private nonprofit institution 2-3~~ years prior to graduation shall be used to calculate the cumulative grade point average.

~~CD. Awards shall be made to applicants based on cumulative grade point average ranked highest to lowest. Awards shall be issued until the total funds appropriated for the program have been depleted.~~

~~DE. Recipients shall be notified through the Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) of the scholarship awards.~~

~~EF. A recipient shall accept the award online through MDCAPS by the date specified in the award notice, or the award shall be forfeited.~~

~~FG. Eligible applicants who do not receive an award shall be notified and placed on a waiting list and considered if funds become available.~~

**.08 Verification and Payment.**

A. Verification. The Office shall verify that the applicant:

(1) Meets the grade point average requirement;

(2) Is:

(a) Enrolled full-time and is within 23 years from graduating in a cybersecurity program;

or

(b) Enrolled part-time and is within 6 years from graduating in a cybersecurity program;

and

(3) Is not a recipient of a Federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service award.

B. Payment. Eligible institutions shall certify on billing rosters provided by the Office that the recipient is:

(1) Eligible for in-State tuition;

(2) Maintaining a grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;

(3) Enrolled full-time or part-time in a cybersecurity program;

(4) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward a degree; and

(5) Maintaining the standards of the institution.

**.09 Scholarship Conditions and Service Requirement.**

A. Full-Time Employment. For purposes of this regulation, "full-time employment" means employment for at least 35 hours per week.

B. Use of Scholarship. A scholarship shall be used solely for education expenses to attend an eligible institution.

C. As a precondition of receiving a scholarship, a recipient shall provide a promissory note and shall enter into a written agreement with the Commission, in the form and manner prescribed by the Office, requiring the recipient to:

- (1) Earn credit as a full-time or part-time student;
- (2) Complete the cybersecurity program for which the recipient received the scholarship;

and

- (3) Perform the service obligation described in §D of this regulation.

D. Service Obligation. ~~For each year that the recipient receives a scholarship, the recipient shall:~~

~~(1) Maintain full-time employment in the State for at least 1 year in a unit of State government in the cybersecurity field; or~~

~~(2) Teach full-time in the State for at least 1 year in a public high school in an education program that is directly relevant to cybersecurity.~~

(1) For each semester that the recipient receives a scholarship, the recipient shall, for the time period specified in this section:

(a) Maintain full-time employment in the State in the cybersecurity field for a:

(i) Local educational agency;

(ii) Public high school;

(iii) Community college; or

(iv) A unit of State, county, city, or municipal government; or

(b) Teach full-time in the State in an education program that is directly relevant to cybersecurity in a:

(i) Public high school; or

(ii) Community college.

(2) A full-time student shall perform the service obligation for 6 months for each semester the student received the scholarship.

(3) A part-time student shall perform the service obligation for 3 months for each semester the student received the scholarship.

(4) Regardless of whether a recipient was enrolled as a full-time or part-time student, the work obligation for the recipient shall not exceed 3 years of full-time employment.

#### **.10 Conversion of Scholarship to Loan Failure to Meet Conditions of Scholarship.**

A. Except as provided in §C of this regulation, if the recipient breaches the terms or conditions of the agreement or note under Regulation .09 of this chapter, including the failure to perform the service obligation, the scholarship shall convert to a student loan payable to the State.

B. Interest on the loan shall be charged at an interest rate equal to the interest rate established by the United States Department of Education for the Federal Stafford Loan on the first day of July of each year.

C. Interest may not accrue prior to notification to the Office of a recipient's graduation or termination from an institution of higher education.

D. Repayment may be prorated if the recipient partially fulfills the service obligation.

E. Except as otherwise provided in this regulation, repayment shall be made to the State within 6 years after the repayment period begins, and shall follow a repayment schedule established by the Office.

### **.11 Deferment of the Service Obligation and Repayment.**

A. Recipients shall seek eligible employment aggressively within the State.

B. A recipient may request that the service obligation be deferred during the time the recipient is:

- (1) Enrolled full-time (~~12 or more credits per semester~~) or part time (~~6—11 credits per semester~~) in an undergraduate or graduate course of study that would further their career in cybersecurity, at any ~~post-secondary~~ institution of higher education in the State;
- (2) On a temporary leave of absence, approved by the employer in the required employment field, for a period not to exceed 12 months;
- (3) Temporarily disabled in a manner that substantially impairs the recipient's ability to perform the service obligation, for a period not to exceed 3 years;
- (4) Unable to maintain employment, for a period not to exceed 12 months, because the recipient must care for a spouse or child who is disabled;
- (5) Assigned military duty outside of the State, not to exceed 3-4 years, ~~without filing an appeal~~; or
- (6) Married to a spouse assigned military duty outside of the State, not to exceed 3-4 years, ~~without filing an appeal~~.

C. A recipient's deferment request shall include satisfactory supporting documentation, consisting of the following, as appropriate:

- (1) Certification by the institution that the recipient has returned to a full-time or part-time course of study at an institution of post-secondary education in the State;
- (2) Certification by the employer that the recipient is on a temporary approved leave of absence;
- (3) A sworn affidavit by a qualified physician that the recipient is temporarily disabled in a manner that substantially impairs the recipient's ability to perform the service obligation;
- (4) A sworn affidavit by a qualified physician that the recipient is unable to maintain employment because the recipient must care for a spouse or child who is disabled; or
- (5) A copy of military orders.

D. The Office shall review all documentation, determine if the deferment conditions have been met and, if so, determine the deferment period.

E. During the period of an approved deferment, a recipient need not make scholarship repayments and interest does not accrue.

~~F. The Office shall, on a case-by-case basis, review appeals from individuals assigned military duty outside the State, and from spouses of individuals assigned military duty outside the State, that exceed the 3-year deferral limit. Appeals shall be in writing and include a copy of the military orders, and the Director shall determine if an appeal is granted.~~

### **.13 Determinations of the Office.**

Decisions of the Office under this chapter regarding ~~whether to grant an~~ award eligibility, recipient selection, and deferment or waiver of the service obligation ~~or whether to grant an appeal~~ are final and not subject to additional review.



**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
ENGAGE. INFORM. SUPPORT.

**Maryland Higher Education Commission  
2025 Meeting Dates**

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is Maryland's higher education coordinating board responsible for the management of statewide financial aid programs and the establishment of statewide policies for public and private colleges and career schools to support students' postsecondary pursuits.

*Commission meetings (meeting modality TBD) are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with certain exceptions noted below.*

Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2025

**January 22, 2025**

**February 26, 2025**

**March 26, 2025**

**April 23, 2025**

**May 28, 2025**

**June 25, 2025**

**July 23, 2025**

**August 27, 2025**

**September 17, 2025**

(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

\*10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.\*

**October 22, 2025**

**November 19, 2025**

(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

**December 10, 2025**

(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)

**Governor**

Wes Moore

**Lt. Governor**

Aruna Miller

**Secretary**

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.

**Commission Chair**

Cassie Motz

**Commission Vice Chair**

Chike Aguh

**Commissioners**

Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.

Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.

Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.

Barbara Kerr Howe

Ray Serrano, Ph.D.

Rebecca Taber Staehelin

Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.

Praise Alayode, Student

Commissioner

**Principal Counsel**

Kimberly Smith Ward

*Dates, times, and details are subject to change.*

Please check this website for the most up-to-date information:

<http://www.mhec.maryland.gov/About/Pages/Meetings.aspx>