



Maryland Higher Education Commission
 Office of Student Financial Aid
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DELAYED COLLEGE ENTRANCE

Appeal Criteria / Required Documentation

2026-2027 Academic Year

The Maryland Higher Education Commission understands that students may experience circumstances that result in them failing to meet certain requirements for consideration or reinstatement of State grant and scholarship programs. Therefore, the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has developed an appeal process for certain allowable programs and circumstances that allows students to request (re)consideration of a State award

Appeal Process

1. Students determine if they meet the criteria to submit an appeal based off the program and allowable appeals under that program.
2. Student gathers all required documentation for the appeal.
3. Student completes the [2026-2027 MHEC Grant and Scholarship Appeal Request Form](#), uploading all required documentation, by the published deadline.
4. OSFA staff will review the appeal and make a determination within 45 business days, unless the student is informed otherwise.

Important Reminders

- Appeals must be submitted through the Appeal Request Form and will not be accepted by any other means.
- It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have provided all required documentation for their appeal. Incomplete appeal requests will be denied.
- It is the student’s responsibility to submit their appeal by the published deadline. Late appeals requests will be denied.

2026-27 Delayed College Entrance Appeal Information	
Eligible Programs	Guaranteed Access Grant
Appeal Opens	April 1, 2026
Appeal Closes	September 1, 2026
Allowable Reasons for Appeal	Required Documentation
Circumstances considered on a case-by-case basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter explaining student’s extenuating circumstances outside of their control that lead to entering college 6 years or more after completing high school/receiving a GED • Letter from a teacher, principal, social worker, counselor, employer, or affiliated organization detailing the student’s commitment to attending college and obtaining a degree

IMPORTANT: Students who have previously received the Educational Assistance Grant cannot appeal for consideration of the Guaranteed Access Grant.