

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

MEETING BOOKLET

Time: 1:00 PM
Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Place: Video Teleconference
(Google Meet)

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.

Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.

Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.

James E. Coleman

Barbara Kerr Howe

Charles McDaniels, Jr.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

James B. Sellinger, Sr.

Ray Serrano, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Haleemat Y. Adekoya, Student Commissioner

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.
Secretary

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph. D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

Maryland Higher Education Commission Meeting Agenda

TIME: 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday
June 22, 2022

PLACE: Video Teleconference
(Google Meet)

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Call to Order		
Chair’s and Secretary’s Remarks		
Public Comments		
Commission Minutes Approval		
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Adjournment

The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2022
1:00 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 via video teleconference (Google Meet).

Commission members present:

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair	Charles McDaniels, Jr.
Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq. (arrived at 1:10 PM)	Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.
James E. Coleman	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
Judge Barbara Kerr Howe (arrived at 1:10 PM)	

Commissions members absent:

Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.	Haleemat Y. Adekoya, Student Commissioner
James B. Sellinger, Sr.	

Staff members present:

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Rhonda Wardlaw	Jennifer Katz
Soma Kedia	Trish Gordon McCown
Lelia Kimbrough	LaTasha Williams
Geoffrey Newman	Kaitlyn Johnson
Barbara Schmertz, Ph.D.	Yuxin Lin, Ph.D.
Carla Price	Lanny Ross
Selina Madufo	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Seurkamp** at approximately 1:02 p.m. A meeting quorum was established with nine (9) out of twelve (12) members present.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Seurkamp thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. She welcomed new Commissioners, Dr. Karen Salmon (former State Superintendent of Schools) and Judge Barbara Kerr Howe (retired Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore County). Both

Commissioners Salmon and Howe made brief remarks, sharing that they were looking forward to serving on the Commission. **Chair Seurkamp** gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

Secretary's Remarks

Secretary Fielder remarked that he was pleased with the addition of the new Commissioners. He also appreciated the dedication and the work of all of the current Commissioners.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Commission Minutes Approval

Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes. **Commissioner Williams** seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Education Policy Committee: Commissioner Boyd did not have an update to share, as the Committee has not met recently.

Outreach, Grants, and Financial Assistance Committee: Commissioner Coleman reported that there have been virtual outreach efforts to various counties in the state on financial aid opportunities. Additionally, website updates are ongoing with new information posted regularly on state scholarships and other financial aid programs.

Finance and Operations Committee: Mr. Geoffrey Newman (Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration) reported that there are 5-6 weeks remaining in the current fiscal year. They are working now to close out the fiscal year financially and open the new fiscal year. Additionally, they have filled a number of vacancies in the agency, though a few remain.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Commissioner McDaniels reported that the Committee met in May to develop a framework for their mission statement. They will meet with Secretary Fielder in June to establish goals for the remainder of the year. Additionally, they will reach out to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) staff at some of the institutions to hear about their work. They will also work to inform the institutions of their efforts.

Department of Academic Affairs – 2021-2022 Student Advisory Council Annual Report – Information Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, who asked Ms. Julea Seliavski (Chair of the Student Advisory Council and student at the Maryland Institute College of Art) to present this item. Ms. Seliavski presented the Council's accomplishments during the 2021-2022 academic year, which included discussions on the following topics: campus initiatives and student experiences related to COVID, the student

complaint process, initiatives related to the incarcerated population, the transfer of college credit, and the opioid epidemic in Maryland. They also came up with a list of recommendations for the next Student Advisory Council to consider. These recommendations were related to COVID, as well as the special topics they discussed during the year. Several of the Commissioners commented on the report's thoroughness and the importance of the topics covered. Clarifying questions were also asked about the report and the Council.

Department of Academic Affairs – Final Adoption of Amendment to COMAR – Denial of Application for Religious Exemption – Action Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Dr. Dow who presented this item. On January 26, 2022, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register a proposed amendment to the regulations governing exemptions for religious educational institutions from the requirement to obtain a Certificate of Approval from the Commission. The purpose of the amendment was to add a deadline of 20 days to request a hearing after an application for exemption is denied.

The proposed amendment was published in the Maryland Register on March 11, 2022. The public comment period for the proposal ended on April 11, 2022, and no public comments were received. The amendment became eligible for final adoption on April 26, 2022.

The proposed amendment is ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendment will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

Dr. Dow recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendment to the procedures for denial of a religious exemption. **Commissioner Boyd** made a motion for approval and **Commissioner McDaniels** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Overview of the 2022 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education – Information Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Dr. Dow who presented this item. She gave an overview of the State Plan, which the Maryland Higher Education Commission is required by state law to update periodically. Dr. Dow also reviewed the process by which it was drafted. The State Plan has three goals:

- 1) Ensure equitable access to affordable and high-quality postsecondary education for all Maryland residents.
- 2) Promote and implement practices and policies that will ensure student success.
- 3) Foster innovation in all aspects of Maryland higher education to improve access and student success.

Within each goal, there are multiple priorities, and each priority has various action items. A draft will be circulated to the Commissioners in about a week's time with the hope of final adoption of the State Plan at the June meeting.

Commissioner Williams asked if, when drafting the State Plan, MHEC looked at other states' initiatives. How are they similar to Maryland's State Plan, and how are they different? Dr. Dow replied that, though the writers did not officially and systematically survey other states' plans, workgroup members did consider and note in the State Plan certain successful initiatives of other states. **Commissioner Serrano** asked if the State Plan integrates the plans of the individual institutions? Dr. Dow answered that the State Plan actually informs the plans of public institutions. After final adoption, they are given a certain amount of time to ensure that their plans are aligned with the State Plan. Other clarifying questions were asked.

Office of Research and Policy Analysis – 2022-2031 Enrollment Projections for Maryland Public Colleges and Universities – Action Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Dr. Barbara Schmertz, Director of the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, who asked Dr. Yuxin Lin, Associate Director, to present this item. Enrollment projections are mandated by COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations), and the Maryland Higher Education Commission has prepared enrollment projections for Maryland public colleges and universities through Fall 2031. The projections include headcount projections for each institution, with separate analyses for full- and part-time undergraduates and, as applicable, full- and part-time graduate/professional students.

These projections provide perspective to higher education policy discussions at the state level, including facilities planning, tuition and fees issues, articulation, and funding priorities. The Department of Budget and Management and the General Assembly use the Commission's forecasts as the State's official enrollment projections.

The figures from the 2022-2031 projections conducted this year are relatively lower than the enrollment projections of 2020-2029 and 2021-2030. This year's lowered projections remedy the possible overestimation of the projections that existed in the past years. Additionally, Dr. Lin gave an overview of the methodology that was used. The Maryland population projections serve as the base of the MHEC enrollment projections.

Dr. Lin recommended that the Maryland Higher Education Commission accept the 2022-2031 enrollment projections and approve their distribution to the public, the campuses, and interested state agencies.

Commissioner Howe expressed concern regarding the decrease in community college enrollment and how that will affect the amount of funding these institutions will receive. Dr. Schmertz spoke about the model that was used to make these projections, explaining that it was created when conditions were different. Mr. Newman added that the model does not affect the amount of funding they receive; the model informs the capital budget. He reminded the Commissioners that the projections are updated every year. **Commissioner Serrano** asked how accurate are the numbers when comparing the different sets of projections. Dr. Lin responded that the projections overestimate the enrollment for community colleges, which is due to the lagged response of the projection model to the persisting decline in the number of community college students. However, the projections for the public 4-year institutions are more accurate because the in-state enrollments of public 4-year institutions are less volatile. **Commissioner**

Serrano further asked how often the model is changed. Dr. Lin answered that the model does not change. Dr. Schmertz added that the overall numbers are accurate. However, the projections regarding where the numbers will be distributed are less accurate. **Commissioner Serrano** inquired if institutions perform their own projections and, if so, how they compare. Dr. Schmertz responded that some of them do. However, the variables that they use are different, depending upon their specific needs.

Commissioner Serrano made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Coleman** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:03 p.m.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022
TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners
FROM: Shinta H. Hernandez, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Advisory Council
SUBJECT: 2021-2022 Faculty Advisory Council Annual Report

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Faculty Advisory Council (Council) met eight times. Each meeting, a subgroup of members presented on a specific topic and led a discussion. The discussions often culminated in formulating recommendations to the Commission, which were voted on by Council representatives. The recommendations, organized by topic, presented below are for the Commission's consideration for either Commission staff to implement and/or to encourage higher education segments or institutions in Maryland to consider for implementation.

Pathway from 2- and 4-year Institutions (carryover from the 2020-2021 Council)

- Establish the Transfer with Success Committee to:
 - Improve cooperation among all Maryland higher education institutions (public, private, 2-yr, and 4-yr) regarding transfer credit
 - Make recommendations to better implement the Transfer With Success Act
- Make recommendations for a new platform, Transfer With Success Maryland-wide (essentially ARTSYS 2.0)
- Provide funding (partial or full) for a transfer coordinator at each Maryland higher education public institution to actively participate on the Transfer With Success Committee.
- Provide funding for creation and maintenance of the Transfer With Success Maryland-wide platforms.
- Each Maryland higher education public institution should develop a webpage with consistent designations detailing all articulation agreements for that institution.

Pathway from 2- and 4-year Institutions

Kathryn Jones (Howard Community College), Raza Khan (Carroll Community College), Ryna May (Howard Community College), Doris Santamaria-Makang (Frostburg State University)

- MHEC should bring forward recommendations for the role and composition of the Student Transfer Advisory Committee.
- MHEC should provide guidance on the establishment and the roles of a Transfer

Advising Council for all public colleges.

- Receiving institutions must maintain an updated record of course transfer equivalencies to show how credit is awarded (as an equivalent course or general elective).
- MHEC must provide guidance to the higher education institutions to determine or define processes/policies for transfer of 70% course equivalency from the perspective of course objectives.
- MHEC should strongly recommend a universal website address for all transfer information such as “collegename.edu/transfer”
- MHEC guidance must include that all public higher education institutions are to use and refer to the approved transfer equivalency course database as the primary recourse ahead of any internal database.

Developmental Education

Melody Gaschler (Allegany College of Maryland), Joe Healey (Frederick Community College), Jennifer Nyland (Salisbury University), Laura Paddack (Wor-Wic Community College), Diarra Robertson (Bowie State University), Atma Sahu (Coppin State University), Candace Vogelsong (Cecil College)

- Institutions should attempt to employ MMA (Multiple Measure Assessment) placement systems.
- Improved data collection and sharing among member institutions regarding developmental education strategies and methodologies.

Test-optional Admissions

Terry Bridger (Prince George’s Community College), Anita Komlodi (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), Bill Talley (University of Maryland Eastern Shore), Trish Westerman (Towson University)

- That MHEC encourage institutions of higher education in Maryland to implement a test-optional admissions process, at least for certain academic programs.
- Test-optional policies are not enough, so institutions should also be encouraged to conduct studies on the impacts of their admissions policies on diversity, retention, graduation, STEM engagement, etc.
- Institutional shifts to test-optional policies should also be accompanied by enhanced financial aid, academic support funding, and recruitment efforts.
- That MHEC share with presidents of institutions of higher education in Maryland the findings and recommendations of this presentation.

Faculty Tenure, Promotion, and Unionization

Stephanie Hallock (Harford Community College), Laura Pope (Baltimore City Community College), Fadia Shaya (University of Maryland, Baltimore)

MHEC could support faculty equity in the following ways:

- Collaborate with institutional leadership to provide context-informed support directed at *need* (equity), recognizing that faculty’s situations and conditions vary within

experiences of racism, genderism, ableism, and classism.

- Ensure ongoing, adequate, equitable funding for all public institutions of higher education.
- Work with the General Assembly to establish hiring, compensation, and job security guidelines within state labor laws.

Social Justice and Systemic Racism

Christine Blackshaw (Mount St. Mary's University), Alan Goldenbach (Hood College), Shinta Hernandez (Montgomery College), Hali Kilbourne (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science), Brandy Rodgers (Lincoln College of Technology)

- Raise awareness across the state to encourage implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategies at institutions of higher learning through:
 - Formal announcement
 - Social media posts, etc. on various faculty professional development opportunities
- Encourage institutions to implement DEI practices in organizational practices (e.g., recruitment, hiring, promotion, mentoring, and committee work).

Faculty Professional Development

Raenita Fenner (Loyola University Maryland), Walter Hill (St. Mary's College of Maryland), Sarah Merranko (College of Southern Maryland), Neal Miller (Stevenson University), Bridal Pearson (University of Maryland Baltimore), Stephanie Savick (Notre Dame of Maryland University)

- Each institution should have a center for teaching and learning
- MHEC should facilitate professional development for campuses that do not have teaching and learning centers.
 - Sample types of support include learning communities, stipends for faculty at campuses that do not have teaching and learning centers, and statewide workshops.
 - MHEC could develop and maintain an online repository to include online tutorials and teaching and learning best practices.
- All faculty should have base knowledge and exposure to all modalities of teaching and learning for enhanced flexibility in times of crisis.
- Common language for teaching modalities (i.e., hybrid, hyflex, asynchronous, synchronous, etc.) in consultation with USM and other relevant organizations such as Quality Matters (QM), MarylandOnline, MD Distance Learning Association, etc.

RECOMMENDATION: This is for information purposes only.



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Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
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James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: 2022 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education

Maryland law charges the Maryland Higher Education Commission (Commission) to develop and periodically update an overall plan, known as the State Plan for Higher Education (Education Article §11–105). This should be done in consultation with the governing boards and agencies concerned with postsecondary education. The State Plan for Higher Education shall identify:

- 1. The present and future needs for postsecondary education and research throughout the State;*
- 2. The present and future capabilities of the different institutions and segments of postsecondary education in the State; and*
- 3. The long-range and short-range objectives and priorities for postsecondary education and methods and guidelines for achieving and maintaining them.*

A draft of the 2022 State Plan for Higher Education is presented for final adoption. In 2020, Commission staff convened workgroups consisting of various stakeholders. Each workgroup was dedicated to one of the three goals: student access, student success, and innovation. The workgroups provided recommendations on revisions to the 2017-2021 State Plan for Higher Education. A draft was circulated for public comment in December 2021. The proposed 2022 State Plan for Higher Education maintains the three goals outlined in the 2017-2021 State Plan for Higher Education, and the priorities and action items reflect the recommendations from the workgroups and feedback from the public comment period.

RECOMMENDATION: The Maryland Higher Education Commission accept and approve the 2022 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education.



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Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.02.02 –
Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program

On March 23, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program, which provides State assistance in the repayment of educational loans for the purpose of attracting qualified individuals to fields of employment in government and the nonprofit sector, particularly those in which there are critical manpower shortages in the State and lower salaries than in the private sector. The purpose of the amendments is to make changes reflecting the Blueprint for Maryland's Future—Implementation, 2021 Maryland Laws Ch. 36 (H.B. 1300 (2020)) by expanding eligibility for the Program to include public school teachers who teach fine arts subjects and to redefine the pool of schools in which public school teachers may complete their service requirement for the Program based on the percentages of students enrolled in free and reduced price lunch programs and a school's loss of Title I status.

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on May 6, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on June 6, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on June 21, 2022.

The enclosed proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendments to the regulations for the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program.

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

13B.08.02 Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-1503, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[22-086-P]

The Maryland Higher Education Commission proposes to amend Regulation .02 under **COMAR 13B.08.02 Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program**. This action was considered at an open meeting of the Commission held on March 23, 2022.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to expand the eligibility criteria for public school teachers to qualify for the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program, pursuant to The Blueprint for Maryland's Future—Implementation Act (Ch. 36, Acts of 2021).

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Geoff Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 20201, or call 410-767-3085, or email to geoff.newman@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through June 6, 2022. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.02 Eligibility.

A. To be eligible for assistance under the Hoffman LARP, an applicant:

(1)—(4) (text unchanged)

(5) Shall meet annual income requirements as established by the Office [for] of Student Financial Assistance.

B. In addition to the eligibility requirements in §A of this regulation, an applicant for a Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award shall have:

(1) Taught in a public school in the State for at least 2 years:

(a) In science, technology, engineering, *fine arts*, or math; [or]

(b) In a school in which [at least 75 percent] *the following percentages* of the students are enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program]; and]:

(i) *On or before June 30, 2025, at least 75 percent; and*

(ii) *On or after July 1, 2025, at least 55 percent; or*

(c) *In a school that:*

(i) *Had Title I status during the 2018—2019 school year;*

(ii) *Lost Title I status after the 2018—2019 school year; and*

(iii) *Participates in the United States Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision; and*

(2) Received the highest performance evaluation rating possible for the most recent year *that is available in the county in which the teacher has taught.*

C. (text unchanged)

JAMES D. FIELDER, JR., Ph.D.
Secretary of Higher Education



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Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.10.03 –
Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program

On March 23, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program, which provides need-based financial assistance to students, including through the provision of Guaranteed Access Grants. The purpose of the amendments is to make incorporate changes to Guaranteed Access Grant Program that were passed during the 2021 Session by expanding the eligibility criteria for secondary school students to prequalify for the Grant prior to their senior year of high school.

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on May 6, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on June 6, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on June 21, 2022.

The enclosed proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendments to the regulations for the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program.

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

13B.08.10 Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-301 et seq., Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[22-087-P]

The Maryland Higher Education Commission proposes to amend Regulation .03 under **COMAR 13B.08.10 Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program**. This action was considered at an open meeting of the Commission held on March 23, 2022.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to expand prequalification eligibility for the Guaranteed Access Program, previously limited to students in grades 7 and 8, to students in grades 9 and 10 and establish prequalification eligibility criteria for these students, as set forth in Ch. 578, Acts of 2021.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Geoff Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 20201, or call 410-767-3085, or email to geoff.newman@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through June 6, 2022. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.03 Eligibility.

A.—E. (text unchanged)

F. [Requirements for Students in Grades 7 or 8.

(1) Except as provided in [§F(2)] §G of this regulation, a student in grade 7 or grade 8 who applies and prequalifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of financial need, as established by the [Commission] Office, shall agree in writing, as a secondary and undergraduate student, to:

[(a)] (1)—[(g)] (7) (text unchanged)

[(2)] For academic years 2017—2018 and 2018—2019 only, a student in grade 9 who applies and prequalifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of financial need as established by OSFA shall meet the conditions of §F(1) of this regulation.]

G. A student in grade 9 or grade 10 shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access Grant, to be used at the time of enrollment in an institution of postsecondary education, if the student:

(1) Meets the requirements set forth in §F of this regulation; and

(2) Either:

(a) Is eligible for free or reduced price meals; or

(b) Attends a school that participates in the United States Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision and is identified by:

(i) Direct certification; or

(ii) Income information provided to the local school system, by the family of the student, on an alternative form developed by the Maryland State Department of Education.

JAMES D. FIELDER, JR., Ph.D.

Secretary of Higher Education



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Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

SUBJECT: Final Adoption of New Regulations for COMAR –
Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program

On March 23, 2022, the Commission approved new regulations for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to Maryland students who, upon completion of an undergraduate or graduate teacher certification program, pledge to work as public school or public prekindergarten teachers at Maryland schools that have at least 50% of the students in the school eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM). The program is available to students attending all public senior higher education institutions in the State and to students attending any private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that has agreed to provide matching grants to awardees. Private nonprofit institutions must confirm their commitment to provide matching grants by annually submitting a Participation Agreement to OSFA.

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on May 6, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on June 6, 2022. One public comment was received, from the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA), and is enclosed. The public comment is regarding the annual submission of Participation Agreements. The proposed regulations stated that a deadline to submit a Participation Agreement would be determined annually; MICUA requests that a date certain be established to assist institutions with their annual planning.

Pursuant to MICUA's request, two minor changes have been made to the appropriate proposed regulation. In addition to adding an annual deadline date for institutions to submit Participation Agreements to OSFA (March 1), an annual deadline date for OSFA to distribute the annual Participation Agreements to institutions (February 1) has been added to ensure that institutions have sufficient time for completion and submission.

The regulations became eligible for final adoption on June 21, 2022. Changes to proposed regulations may be made in the process of final adoption if they are certified as

nonsubstantive by an agency's legal counsel. Because these changes simply add specific dates based on OSFA's current practices, they have been determined to be nonsubstantive by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General. The enclosed proposed regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption, with the nonsubstantive changes to Regulation .03 shown in the attached text. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed regulations, including the nonsubstantive changes indicated in the text, for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program.

MICUA

Maryland Independent College
and University Association

140 SOUTH STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

PHONE: 410-269-0306
FAX: 410-269-5905
www.micua.org

MEMBERS

Capitol Technology University

Goucher College

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Johns Hopkins University

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Maryland Institute College of Art

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Notre Dame of Maryland University

St. John's College

Stevenson University

Washington Adventist University

Washington College

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Ner Israel Rabbinical College

St. Mary's Seminary & University

June 6, 2022

Mr. Geoff Newman
Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration
Maryland Higher Education Commission
6 N. Liberty Street
10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Newman:

On behalf of the Maryland Independent College and University Association's (MICUA) colleges and universities that prepare educators to teach in our public schools, please accept this comment on the proposed Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13B.08.22 Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program, which were published on May 6, 2022.

Students at participating MICUA institutions have benefitted from this scholarship program, easing their financial burden as they pursue their studies in the teacher preparation program. We are grateful for the wisdom of the Legislature in creating this scholarship program, and we are appreciative that you and your colleagues have faithfully implemented the opportunity.

We would like to provide comment on proposed COMAR 13B.08.22.03A(3), for submission of the Participation Agreement.

.03 Private Eligible Institutions.

A. Participation Agreements.

(3) Participation Agreements shall be submitted to the Office by the deadline annually established by the Office.

We respectfully request clarification of the language in the regulation to stipulate a specific date as the deadline for submission of the Participation Agreement, rather than having it established annually by the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Since there are institutional matching grant and annual Participation Agreement resubmission requirements for the scholarship, it is beneficial for an institution's planning cycle to have established calendar deadlines. In turn, this will assist students by providing stability and reliability to their financial planning process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Angela R. Sherman, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
asherman@micua.org

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 22 Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105 and 18-204 and Title 18, Subtitle 22, Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Program Established.

A. There is a Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program, which is administered by the Office pursuant to Education Article, Title 18, Subtitle 22, Annotated Code of Maryland.

B. The purpose of the Program is to provide scholarships to students who pledge to work as public school or public prekindergarten teachers in the State.

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

(3) Eligible Institution.

(a) “Eligible institution” has the meaning stated in Education Article, §18-2201, Annotated Code of Maryland.

(b) “Eligible institution” does not include a private nonprofit institution of higher education that has not timely submitted a Participation Agreement to the Office under this chapter.

(4) Extenuating Circumstances.

(a) “Extenuating circumstances” means the occurrence of an extraordinary event or condition that prevents a recipient from fulfilling a scholarship requirement.

(b) “Extenuating circumstances” may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Disability;

(ii) Serious illness of the student;

(iii) Pregnancy or adoption;

(iv) Extreme financial hardship of the students or student’s immediate family;

(v) Fulfillment of military service; or

(vi) Serious illness or death of an immediate family member.

(5) “Full-time” means enrollment in:

(a) At least 12 credits per semester in an undergraduate certificate or degree program; or

(b) At least 9 credits per semester in a graduate certificate or degree program.

(6) “Initial participation year” means the academic year following the submission of a Participation Agreement under Regulation .03 of this chapter.

(7) “MDCAPS” means the Maryland College Aid Process System maintained by the Office.

(8) “Nonresident student” means a student that resides in housing that is privately owned.

(9) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Commission.

(10) “Part-time” means enrollment in:

(a) At least 6 credits, but fewer than 12 credits, per semester in an undergraduate certificate or degree program; or

(b) At least 6 credits, but fewer than 9 credits, per semester in a graduate certificate or degree program.

(11) “Resident student” means a student who resides in housing that is owned by the institution in which they are enrolled.

(12) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Higher Education.

(13) “Scholarship” means a Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship under this chapter.

(14) Teaching Assistant.

(a) “Teaching assistant” means an individual who, regardless of job title, is employed at least 10 hours a week by a school or prekindergarten program to provide instructional assistance to a teacher in a classroom setting.

(b) “Teaching assistant” does not include a volunteer.

.03 Private Eligible Institutions.

A. Participation Agreements.

(1) A private nonprofit institution of higher education that is an eligible institution under Education Article, §18-2201(b)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, shall annually notify the Commission of its agreement to provide matching grants to students, pursuant to §B of this regulation, by submitting a Participation Agreement to the Office pursuant to this section.

(2) The Participation Agreement in §A(1) of this regulation shall be in a form prescribed by the Office, which will be annually provided to all private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the State ~~each year~~ no later than February 1.

(3) Participation Agreements shall be annually submitted to the Office ~~by the deadline annually established by the Office~~ no later than March 1. A student at an institution that did not timely submit a Participation Agreement will not be considered for an initial award by the Office.

(4) The names of the institutions that timely submitted a Participation Agreement to the Office each year shall be displayed on the Commission website and the scholarship application form.

B. Matching Grants.

(1) During an initial participation year, an institution shall provide a matching grant to:

(a) A student who receives an initial award from the Office for that year; and

(b) A transfer student who receives a renewal award for that year, if it is the student’s first year attending the institution.

(2) If a student received a matching grant during an initial participation year, the institution shall provide a matching grant to the student for each year in which the student:

- (a) Remains enrolled at the institution; and
- (b) Receives a renewal award under this chapter.

(3) A matching grant under §B(2) of this regulation shall be provided regardless of whether the institution has submitted a Participation Agreement for that year.

(4) The amount of a matching grant shall be equal to the amount of the initial or renewal award received by the student from the Office.

(5) Repayment.

(a) An institution is not prohibited from requiring repayment of a matching grant if the student fails to meet any scholarship requirements set forth in Education Article, Title 18, Subtitle 22, Annotated Code of Maryland.

(b) An institution shall notify a student of all institutional repayment requirements prior to the student's acceptance of a scholarship award under this chapter.

(c) An institution shall be solely responsible for administration of any repayment obligation.

.04 Use and Amount of Award.

A. A scholarship shall be used solely for tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board for the fall and spring semester following the award.

B. For a student using the scholarship at a public eligible institution, as defined in Education Article, §18-2201(b)(1), Annotated Code of Maryland, the scholarship awarded by the Office shall be in an amount equal to 100% of the annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, for the fall and spring semesters at the public eligible institution.

C. For a student using the scholarship at a private nonprofit institution of higher education that is an eligible institution under this chapter, the scholarship awarded by the Office shall be in an amount equal to:

(1) For tuition and fees, the lesser of:

(a) 100 percent of the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, for the fall and spring semesters at the University of Maryland, College Park campus; or

(b) 50 percent of the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, for the fall and spring semesters at the private nonprofit institution of higher education; and

(2) For room and board, 100 percent of the room and board of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, for the fall and spring semesters at the private nonprofit institution of higher education.

D. Subject to the availability of funds, the award amount of a nonresident undergraduate or graduate student at a public or private nonprofit eligible institution may include an allowance for room and board costs, in an amount determined by the Office, but not more than 100 percent of the room and board of a resident undergraduate or graduate student at the institution, as appropriate.

.05 Initial Awards—Student Eligibility.

A. Subject to the State budget, the Office annually shall determine students' initial eligibility to receive a scholarship.

B. Except as set forth in §C of this regulation, an applicant is eligible for a scholarship if the applicant:

- (1) Does not have a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- (2) Is accepted for admission or currently enrolled at an eligible institution as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- (3) Is a Maryland resident or has graduated from a Maryland high school;
- (4) Has achieved at least:
 - (a) For a student currently enrolled in high school:
 - (i) A cumulative unweighted grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent after completion of the first semester of the senior year;
 - (ii) An overall GPA in the top 15 percent of the student's grade after the completion of the first semester of the senior year;
 - (iii) A combined reading and math score of at least 1100 on the SAT with a score of at least 500 on each of those portions; or
 - (iv) A composite ACT score of at least 25;
 - (b) For a student who has graduated from high school and completed fewer than 12 college credits:
 - (i) An overall unweighted high school GPA of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent;
 - (ii) A combined reading and math score of at least 1100 on the SAT with a score of at least 500 on each of those portions; or
 - (iii) A composite ACT score of at least 25;
 - (c) For a student who has completed at least 12, but fewer than 24, undergraduate credits:
 - (i) A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and satisfactory progress toward a degree; or
 - (ii) A combined reading and math score of at least 1100 on the SAT with a score of at least 500 on each of these portions, provided that the student has a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and satisfactory progress toward a degree;
 - (d) For a student who has completed 24 or more undergraduate credits and does not have a bachelor's degree:
 - (i) A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and satisfactory progress toward a degree; or
 - (ii) A score of at least 50 percent on the GRE, provided that the student has a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and satisfactory progress toward a degree; or
 - (e) For a student who has a bachelor's degree:
 - (i) An overall undergraduate GPA of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale; or
 - (ii) A score of at least 50 percent on the GRE, provided that the student has a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and satisfactory progress toward a degree;

- (5) Has demonstrated an exceptional dedication to or aptitude for teaching; and
- (6) Timely files an application and all supporting documentation required by the Office.

C. An applicant is exempt from §B(3)—(5) of this regulation if, at the time they are scheduled to matriculate at an eligible institution, they will have been employed as a teaching assistant at a public school or public prekindergarten program in the State for at least 2 years.

D. An applicant's career history or prior course of study at an institution of postsecondary education may not exclude the applicant from eligibility for the scholarship.

E. A determination made by the Office that an applicant is ineligible for an initial award is final and not subject to further review or appeal.

.06 Initial Awards—Application Process.

A. To be considered for an initial award, a student shall submit to the Office, by the deadline established by the Office, an application form and all documentation required by this regulation. Untimely submission of any required materials shall disqualify an applicant from being awarded a scholarship.

B. Form of Application. Except for applicants who are eligible for the scholarship under Regulation .05C of this chapter, all applicants shall submit:

- (1) The Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship application form;
- (2) A written essay of at least 600 words detailing exceptional dedication to or aptitude for teaching;
- (3) Documentation of GPA and standardized test score, as follows:
 - (a) For an applicant currently in high school:
 - (i) A high school transcript issued after the completion of the first semester of the senior year; and
 - (ii) If the transcript indicates a cumulative unweighted GPA of less than 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, an SAT or ACT score report or documentation, in a form prescribed by the Office, of class rank;
 - (b) For an applicant who has graduated from high school and completed fewer than 12 college credits, whether or not currently enrolled:
 - (i) A final high school transcript; and
 - (ii) If the transcript indicates an overall unweighted high school GPA of less than 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, an SAT or ACT score report;
 - (c) For an applicant who has completed at least 12, but fewer than 24, undergraduate credits:
 - (i) The most recent college transcript; and
 - (ii) If the transcript indicates a cumulative undergraduate GPA of less than 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, an SAT or ACT score report;
 - (d) For an applicant who has completed 24 or more undergraduate credits and has not earned a bachelor's degree, whether or not currently enrolled:
 - (i) The most recent college transcript; and
 - (ii) If the transcript indicates a cumulative undergraduate GPA of less than 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, a GRE score report; or

(e) For an applicant who has a bachelor's degree, whether or not the applicant has completed graduate credits or earned a graduate degree:

(i) A final undergraduate transcript; and

(ii) If the transcript indicates a cumulative undergraduate GPA of less than 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, a GRE score report; and

(4) Any other documents required by the Office.

C. An applicant who is not required to submit an SAT, ACT, or GRE score report under §B of this regulation may submit the applicable test score report in addition to the applicant's required materials.

D. Form of Application—Teaching Assistant Applicants. In lieu of the documents in §B of this regulation, applicants who are eligible for the scholarship under Regulation .05C of this chapter shall submit:

(1) The Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship application form;

(2) An Employment Verification Form available from the Office; and

(3) Any other documents required by the Office.

E. The Office may request additional information or documentation from an applicant before determining eligibility for the award. Any requested information or documentation submitted after any deadline established by the Office will not be considered.

.07 Renewal Awards.

A. Except as set forth in §C of this regulation, an initial scholarship award under this chapter may be renewed annually for a maximum of three renewal awards.

B. A student's scholarship shall be eligible for renewal if the student:

(1) Continues to be a resident of the State or graduated from a high school in the State;

(2) Continues to be a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student at an eligible institution pursuing a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

(3) Except as set forth in §D of this regulation, has maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, as demonstrated by the student's most recent undergraduate or graduate transcript;

(4) Is determined by their institution to be maintaining satisfactory progress towards a degree; and

(5) Maintains the disciplinary standards of the institution.

C. Renewal of Award for Fifth Year.

(1) If a student is enrolled in a course of study or program that, as determined by the institution, requires 5 years to complete, an initial scholarship award may be renewed annual for a maximum of four renewal awards.

(2) The student shall request renewal of the award for a fifth year by submitting to the Office:

(a) Documentation from the institution that the course of study or program in which the student is enrolled requires 5 years to complete; and

(b) Any other documents requested by the Office.

(3) Determinations made by the Office under this section are final and not subject to further review or appeal.

D. Waiver of GPA Requirement Based on Extenuating Circumstances.

(1) A student who has not achieved the required GPA shall be eligible to receive a renewal award if the student provides the Office with documentation of extenuating circumstances and the Office determines that the documentation provides sufficient evidence of the extenuating circumstances.

(2) The student shall request a waiver by submitting to the Office:

(a) A letter explaining the extenuating circumstances and why they prevented the student from achieving the required GPA;

(b) Any documentation of the occurrence of the extenuating circumstances;

(c) Any other relevant supporting documentation; and

(d) Any other documents requested by the Office.

(3) Waiver determinations made by the Office are final and not subject to further review or appeal.

.08 Selection of Recipients.

A. If the number of applicants for awards exceeds the amount of funds available, eligible applicants will be selected pursuant to §§B—E of this regulation.

B. Renewal Awards. Priority shall be given to applicants who are renewing an award under Regulation .07 of this chapter.

C. High School and Undergraduate Students.

(1) If funds remain after awards are made to students under §B of this regulation, priority shall be given to initial applicants who have not yet earned an undergraduate degree.

(2) If the number of applicants under this section exceeds the amount of funds available, applicants shall be ranked in descending order by GPA or the GPA equivalent, as established by the Office, of the applicant's SAT, ACT, or GRE score, whichever is higher.

D. Teaching Assistants.

(1) If funds remain after awards are made to students under §§B and C of this regulation, priority shall be given to initial applicants who have applied as teaching assistants under Regulation .06D of this chapter.

(2) If the number of applicants under this section exceeds the amount of funds available, applicants shall be ranked according to application submission date.

E. Graduate Students.

(1) If funds remain after awards are made to students under §§B—D of this regulation, awards shall be made to applicants who have already earned an undergraduate degree.

(2) If the number of applicants under this section exceeds the amount of funds available, applicants will be ranked in descending order by GPA or the GPA equivalent, as established by the Office, of the applicant's GRE score, whichever is higher.

F. An eligible applicant who does not receive an award shall be notified and placed on a waiting list.

.09 Award Notification and Acceptance.

A. A recipient shall be notified by the Office of an award offer in writing, which may include electronic mail.

B. The recipient shall have 6 weeks from the date notification was sent by the Office to accept the award. A recipient who does not accept the award in that time period will not receive an award.

C. A recipient shall log into MDCAPS in order to accept an award offer unless permitted by the Director to provide an alternative form of written acceptance.

D. Additional Requirements for Receipt of Award.

(1) To receive the award, a recipient shall, by the deadline established by the Office:

(a) Execute the written agreement with the Commission described in Regulation .11B of this chapter; and

(b) Sign the promissory note described in Regulation .11B of this chapter.

(2) A recipient who does not timely complete the requirements of this section will not receive an award.

.10 Certification and Disbursement.

A. Annual awards shall be disbursed in two installments, one per semester.

B. Certification of Initial Awards. Before an initial award is disbursed, eligible institutions shall certify, on billing rosters provided by the Office, that a recipient is:

(1) If applicable, a Maryland resident; and

(2) Enrolled as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student, as applicable, pursuing a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate.

C. Certification of Renewal Awards. Before a renewal award is disbursed, eligible institutions shall certify, on billing rosters provided by the Office, that a recipient:

(1) If applicable, continues to be a Maryland resident;

(2) Continues to be enrolled as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student, as applicable, pursuing a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

(3) Has maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale;

(4) Is maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward a degree; and

(5) Is maintaining the disciplinary standards of the institution.

D. An institution shall provide certification to the Office and request payment for all recipients on a semester basis no later than:

(1) December 15, for the fall semester; and

(2) May 15, for the spring semester.

E. An institution that fails to timely certify and request payment for all recipients under §D of this regulation may not certify recipients for the subsequent semester until all prior semester awards have been certified and disbursed.

.11 Scholarship Conditions and Repayment.

A. Recipient Obligations. A scholarship recipient shall:

(1) Maintain all scholarship eligibility requirements set forth in Education Article, Title 18, Subtitle 22, Annotated Code of Maryland, and this chapter;

(2) Satisfy the degree requirements of the course of study or program for which the scholarship was received;

(3) After completion of the course of study or program for which the scholarship was received, perform a service obligation that meets the requirements of Regulation .12 of this chapter;

(4) Become professionally certified to teach in the State of Maryland no later than 2 years after completion of the course of study or program for which the scholarship was received; and

(5) Satisfy any other criteria established by the Commission.

B. Required Documents. A recipient shall:

(1) Enter into a written agreement with the Commission, in the form and manner prescribed by the Office, to meet the scholarship conditions in §A of this regulation; and

(2) Sign a promissory note, in the form prescribed by the Office, to repay the award if the recipient does not perform the obligations set forth in the written agreement.

C. Conversion of Scholarship to Loan.

(1) Except as provided in Regulation .12 of this chapter, if a recipient breaches the agreement or promissory note in §B of this regulation, the scholarship shall be converted to a student loan, payable to the State.

(2) Except as set forth in §C(3) of this regulation, the amount of the loan shall be equivalent to the total of the awards received by the recipient from the State.

(3) The loan amount may be prorated based on partial fulfillment of the service obligation.

(4) 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 July 1st each year. Interest will not accrue prior to a recipient's graduation or termination from an eligible institution.

(5) The Office shall establish a repayment schedule for the loan. Except as otherwise provided in this regulation, repayment shall be made to the State within 6 years after the repayment period begins.

D. Loan Forgiveness.

(1) The Office shall partially forgive a recipient's repayment obligation, in an amount equal to 2 years' awards, if it determines that:

(a) The recipient has:

(i) Taken the teacher certification examination approved by the State Board of Education, in 2 consecutive years; and

(ii) Failed to pass the teacher certification examination within 2 years after completion of the course of study or program for which the scholarship was received; or

(b) The recipient has provided to the Office satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that prevented the recipient from becoming professionally certified to teach in the State.

(2) Decisions of the Office regarding loan forgiveness are final and not subject to further review or appeal.

.12 Service Obligation Requirements.

A. Allowable Employment.

(1) Generally. Except as set forth in §B(2) of this regulation, the service obligation requirement in Regulation .11A of this chapter shall be fulfilled by employment of at least 35 hours a week as a teacher at:

(a) A public school in the State that has at least 50 percent of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals; or

(b) A public prekindergarten program in the State that has at least 50 percent of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

(2) Employment Unavailable.

(a) If, after aggressively seeking employment for a position that meets the requirements set forth in §A(1) of this regulation, a recipient is unable to perform the service requirement in this section because there are no available positions that meet these requirements, the service obligation may take place in any public school or public prekindergarten program in the State.

(b) A recipient described in §A(2)(a) of this regulation shall provide to the Office documentation that provides sufficient evidence, as determined by the Office, that there are no available positions that meet the requirements of §A(1) of this regulation.

(3) The service obligation requirement may not be fulfilled by:

(a) Employment as a teaching assistant;

(b) Volunteer service; or

(c) A fellowship or internship.

B. Duration.

(1) Undergraduate Students. For each year a recipient receives a scholarship for an undergraduate program, the recipient shall perform the service obligation for 1 year.

(2) Graduate Students. A recipient who receives a scholarship for a graduate program shall perform the service obligation for at least 2 years.

C. Deferment.

(1) A recipient may request that the service obligation be deferred during the time the recipient is:

(a) Enrolled full-time or part-time in a graduate certificate or degree program in Education in the State;

(b) On a temporary leave of absence of less than 12 months from an allowable employer under this regulation, approved by the employer;

(c) 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;

(d) Unable to maintain employment because the recipient must care for a spouse or child who is disabled, for a period not to exceed 12 months;

(e) Assigned military duty outside of the State, for a period not to exceed 3 years unless the Director determines that special circumstances exist that warrant a longer period; or

(f) Married to a spouse assigned military duty outside of the State, for a period not to exceed 3 years unless the Director determines that special circumstances exist that warrant a longer period.

(2) A recipient's deferment request shall include satisfactory supporting documentation, consisting of the following, as appropriate:

(a) Certification by an institute in the State that the recipient is enrolled in a full-time or part-time graduate certificate or degree program in Education;

(b) Certification by the employer that the recipient is on a temporary approved leave of absence;

(c) 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;

(d) 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

(e) A copy of military orders.

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

(4) Decisions of the Office regarding deferment are final and not subject to further review or appeal.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Amendment to COMAR 13B.08.01.02 –
2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program

Under § 18-2501, *et seq.*, of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to encourages community college graduates to transfer to 4-year institutions of higher education and complete a bachelor's degree program. This scholarship program is governed by COMAR 13B.08.01.

Currently, § 18-2503 of the Education Article requires OSFA to use the federally calculated expected family contribution (EFC) in determining the financial need of an applicant for this scholarship. However, the U.S. Department of Education is in the process of replacing EFC with a different measure of financial need, the student aid index (SAI). In anticipation of this change, during the 2022 session, the legislature enacted HB 734 (Ch. 23), which allows OSFA the discretion to determine the best measure of financial need for this scholarship. The enclosed proposed regulatory amendment reflects this change.

The proposed regulatory amendment has been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. It is 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) Approves for publication in the Maryland Register the enclosed proposed regulatory amendment to the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program; 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.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 01 2 + 2 Transfer Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-2501 – 18-2507, Annotated Code of Maryland

.02 Eligibility.

To be eligible for assistance under the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program, an applicant shall:

- A. Be a Maryland resident;
- B. Be currently enrolled at a community college in Maryland;
- C. Maintain a minimum cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale while a student at a community college in Maryland;
- D. Have earned an associate's degree from a community college in Maryland by the end of the semester in which the applicant plans to transfer;
- E. Be accepted for admission to a degree program at a public senior higher education institution or a private nonprofit institution of higher education in Maryland;
- F. Intend to enroll in a public senior higher education institution or a private nonprofit institution of higher education in Maryland in order to complete a bachelor's program;
- G. On or after the fall semester of 2014, enroll as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a public senior higher education institution or a private nonprofit institution of higher education in Maryland by the fall semester following completion of the associate's degree;
- H. In the case of an individual who is required to register with the Selective Service System, have complied with the registration requirement;
- I. Timely file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form; and
- J. Have demonstrated financial need, ~~defined as a federally calculated expected family contribution (EFC) of \$10,000 or less as reported on the student's FAFSA.~~



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Amendment to COMAR 13B.08.13.03 – Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program

Under § 18-601 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program provide financial assistance to certain veterans, first responders, local public safety employees and their families and to the families of school employees who died or were disabled as a result of an act of violence, respectively. These scholarship programs are governed by COMAR 13B.08.13.

Currently, these scholarships are available to students at degree-granting institutions only. During the 2022 session, the legislature enacted HB 734 (Ch. 23), which expands eligibility for the program to students who attend private career schools. The enclosed proposed regulatory amendments reflect this change.

The proposed regulatory amendments have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. They 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) Approves for publication in the Maryland Register the enclosed proposed regulatory amendments to the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program; 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.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 13 Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program

**Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-601, Annotated Code of
Maryland**

.03 Eligibility.

To be eligible for a Conroy-Cryor scholarship, an individual shall:

A. Be a resident of Maryland at the time of the application or have been a resident of Maryland when an event described in §C of this regulation occurred;

B. Be accepted for admission or enrolled in:

~~(1) the~~ The regular undergraduate, graduate, or professional program at a Maryland postsecondary institution;
~~or in;~~

~~(2) a~~ A 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; ~~and/or~~

~~(3) A private career school; and~~

C. Qualify under at least one of the following conditions:

(1) Be at least 16 years old and the child of a member of the armed forces who:

(a) Died as a result of military service after December 7, 1941;

(b) Suffered a service connected 100 percent permanent disability after December 7, 1942; or

(c) Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if the child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in action;

(2) Be a prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and a resident of this State at the time the person was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action;

(3) Be either:

or (a) At least 16 years old and the child of any State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty;

(b) The surviving spouse of any State or local public safety employee killed in the line of duty;

(4) Be either:

(a) A disabled public safety employee;

(b) At least 16 years old and the child of a disabled public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee 100 percent disabled; or

(c) The surviving spouse of a disabled public safety employee who sustains an injury in the line of duty that renders the public safety employee 100 percent disabled;

(5) Be a veteran, as defined under State Government Article, §9-901, Annotated Code of Maryland, who:

(a) Suffers a service connected disability of 25 percent or greater; and

(b) Has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans' educational benefits;

(6) Be the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces who suffered a service connected 100 percent permanent disability;

(7) Be at least 16 years old and the child of or the surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

(8) Be at least 16 years old and the child of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

(a) Died in the line of duty; or

(b) Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100 percent disabled; or

(9) Be the surviving spouse of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

(a) Died in the line of duty; or

(b) Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100 percent disabled.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.14 –
Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program

Under § 18-708 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program provides financial assistance to students in certain majors who agree to use their degree to obtain employment in fields of critical shortage in the State after graduation. The current areas of shortage include early childhood education, special education, certain teaching fields, aging services, disability services, mental health, physical and occupational therapy, nursing, and social work. This scholarship program is governed by COMAR 13B.08.14.

Currently, MHEC's regulations for this program require the submission of a high school or college transcript and prioritize the selection of applicants primarily by high school or college GPA. Applicants are not required to complete the FAFSA, so a student's financial need is a secondary factor or is not taken into account at all. The purpose of the enclosed proposed regulatory amendments is provide a specific process for students who obtained their GED, but have not yet enrolled in a college or university, to apply for the scholarship. Because these applicants are not able to submit either a high school or college GPA, the enclosed regulatory amendments also add a FAFSA filing requirement, enabling a modification of the selection process to prioritize applicants by financial need rather than GPA.

The proposed regulatory amendments have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. They 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) Approves for publication in the Maryland Register the enclosed proposed regulatory amendments to Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program; 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.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 14 Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204 (c), and 18-708, Annotated Code of Maryland

.02 Eligibility.

A. A recipient of assistance under this program shall:

(1) Be a Maryland resident (if the recipient is a dependent student, the parent claiming the student as dependent shall be a Maryland resident as well);

(2) Have achieved:

(a) If the applicant has completed 12 or more college credits, a cumulative college GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;

(b) If the applicant has completed less than 12 college credits, either:

(i) A cumulative, unweighted high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; or

(ii) A GED with a passing score of at least 165 per module;

(23) Enroll in an eligible major as specified in regulation .08 of this chapter;

(34) After completing studies in an eligible program, perform the service obligation as specified for each field in which there is a critical shortage; and

(45) Sign a letter of intent to enroll in at least 6 credits per semester at a 2-year or 4-year Maryland college or university as an institution of higher education in Maryland as a degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate student;

(a) Full-time (12 or more credits per semester) degree-seeking undergraduate student;

(b) Part-time (6—11 credits per semester) degree-seeking undergraduate student;

(c) Full-time (9 or more credits per semester) degree-seeking graduate student; or

(d) Part-time (6—8 credits per semester) degree-seeking graduate student.

B. Audited courses may not be used to reach the minimum credit hours for full-time or part-time status under ~~(4)~~ §A(5) of this regulation.

~~C. A student shall satisfy the criteria in §A(4) of this regulation if the student is:~~

~~(1) An undergraduate student enrolled for less than part-time credits during a semester if the student earns at least 12 undergraduate in each academic year in which the student receives assistance, including summer sessions; or~~

~~(2) A graduate student enrolled for less than part-time credits during a semester if the student earns at least 9 graduate credit hours in each academic year in which the student receives assistance, including summer sessions.~~

.06 Application Procedures.

A. To be considered for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program, an applicant shall no later than July 1 submit:

~~(1) Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);~~

~~(2) Submit a~~ completed application;

~~(3) If the applicant has completed 12 or more college credits, submit a~~ An official transcript from ~~each the~~ current or most recent institution of postsecondary education the applicant is attending or has attended;

~~(34) If the applicant has earned less than 12 college level credits, submit:~~

~~(a); an~~ An official high school transcript; or

~~(b) A copy of their GED examination;~~

~~(45) If applying as a nursing major, submit~~ proof of acceptance into a nursing program at the institution; and

~~(56) Submit a~~ Any additional documentation that may be required by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) based on the applicant's major.

~~B. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is not required, but applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the FAFSA.~~

~~C. An applicant shall complete and submit all required documents by July 1.~~

~~D~~B. Each applicant shall agree to provide any information or documentation requested by OSFA for the purpose of administering this program and, if requested, shall sign an authorization for the release of information to OFSA for the purpose of administering this program. An applicant's failure or refusal to provide requested information or a signed release may result in a determination of ineligibility, revocation of an award, denial of service credit, imposition of repayment obligations, or denial of a deferment or waiver request.

.07 Selection of Recipients.

A. Priority for awards shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible for the award under Regulation .10 of this chapter.

B. Initial Recipients shall be selected for awards based on greatest financial need, as demonstrated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

~~A. Grant awards shall be issued using both merit and need-based criteria.~~

~~B. Applicants shall be ranked by grade point average (GPA) and then ranked by need within each occupational field. Students with the greatest need within each GPA range shall receive awards first.~~

~~C. The following GPA ranges shall be used:~~

~~(1) GPA 3.8 to GPA 4.0;~~

~~(2) GPA 3.6 to GPA 3.79;~~

~~(3) GPA 3.4 to GPA 3.59;~~

~~(4) GPA 3.0 to GPA 3.39; and~~

~~(5) GPA 2.9 and below.~~

~~D. Merit Ranking:~~

~~(1) Transcripts shall be required to determine a student's merit ranking.~~

~~(2) A minimum GPA will not be required to determine a student's eligibility because the appropriate GPA level could vary by major.~~

~~(3) The GPA ranking of students shall be based on each student's cumulative, unweighted GPA on a standardized 4.0 scale.~~

~~(4) High school transcripts shall be used to calculate the GPA for entering freshman and students that have completed less than 12 college credits. Undergraduate level college transcripts shall be used for students who have completed more than 12 college credits as an undergraduate student and less than 12 college credits as a graduate student. Graduate level transcripts shall be used for students who have completed more than 12 graduate level credits.~~

~~E. Need Ranking:~~

~~(1) In determining the award order, students within each GPA range with the greatest need shall be given the highest priority.~~

~~(2) A student's need ranking shall be based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).~~

~~(3) Except for the William Donald Schaefer Scholarship, it is not mandatory that students complete a FAFSA to be eligible to receive an award. If a student chooses not to file a FAFSA, it will be assumed that the student has no need and will be placed at the bottom of each GPA range to be considered for an award.~~



Larry Hogan
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Secretary

Maryland Higher Education Commission 2022 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.

Meeting Dates and Locations

January 26, 2022	July 27, 2022 (if needed)
February 23, 2022	August 24, 2022 (if needed)
March 23, 2022	September 28, 2022 10:00am to 4:00pm
April 27, 2022	October 26, 2022
May 25, 2022	November 16, 2022 *Please note date change.*
June 22, 2022	December 14, 2022 *Please note date change.*

All Commission meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, with certain exceptions. Meetings in 2022 will be conducted via video teleconference (GoToMeeting), unless otherwise noted.

Dates and times are subject to change.

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