



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Scholarships and Grants
Workshop 2014

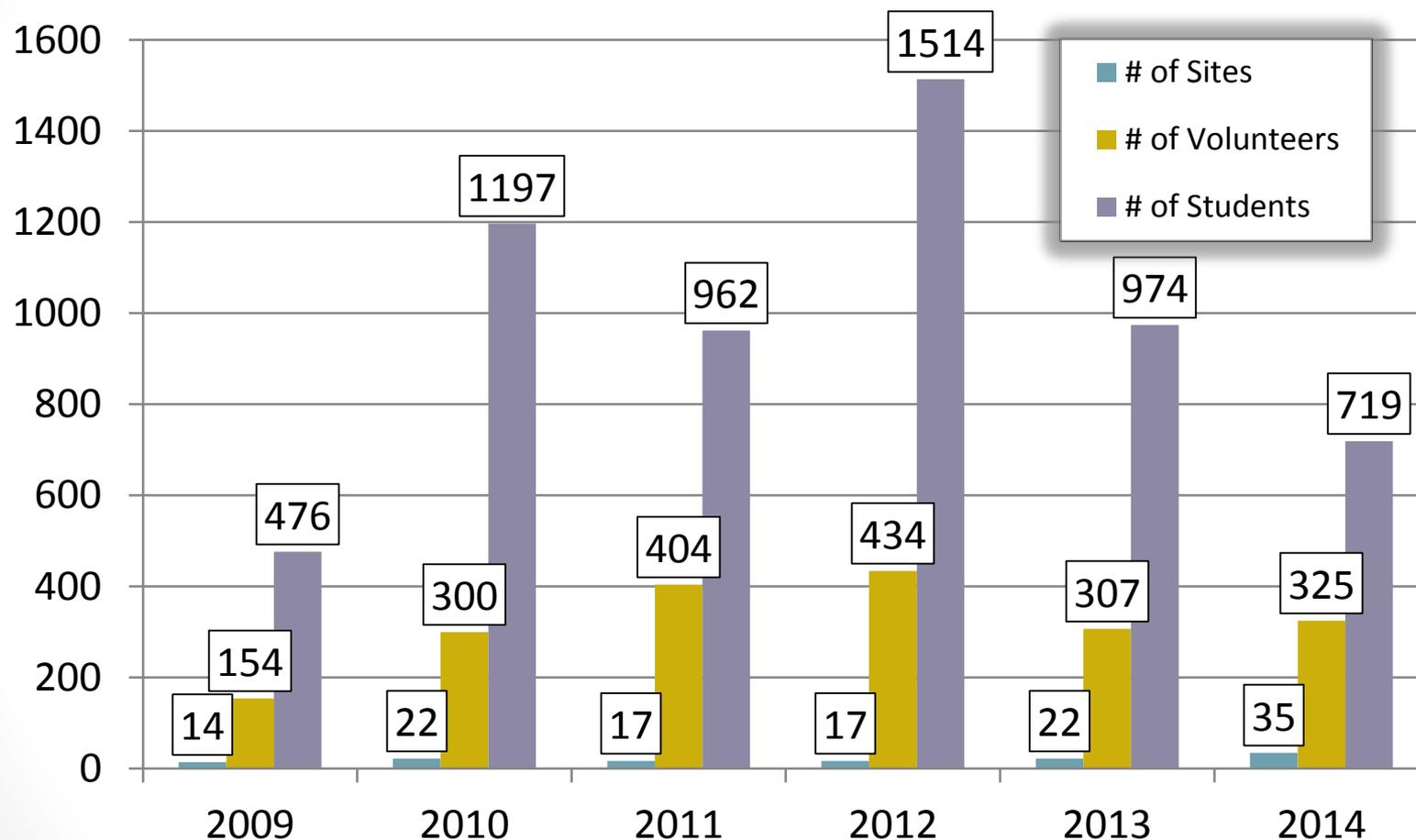
Agenda

- College Goal
- Legislative Updates
- SC Need Based Grant/LTAP
- General Scholarship Information
- Transcripts
- Year-Round Scholarships

What is College Goal South Carolina

- College Goal South Carolina (CGSC) is **Step 2** of the college access process.
- It is a grassroots financial aid intervention program that utilizes local postsecondary institutions and high schools in all 12 regional areas across South Carolina.
- SCASFAA's College Goal SC Committee takes the lead on FAFSA completion efforts at participating sites who host College Goal SC events during the month of February.
- In addition to the Financial Aid Officers (FAO) who primarily host College Goal South Carolina sites statewide also partner with their 11 Regional Education Center Coordinators, local area high schools, community business leaders and local volunteers assist with the promotion of College Goal South Carolina events within the community.
- Volunteers assist students and their parents/guardians with the successfully completion and submission of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form.
- CGSC provides students with **free** professional assistance in order to complete FAFSA forms online or on paper.
- Students are also provided with information on state scholarship programs as well as information about the state's two and four year post-secondary education institutions.

College Goal South Carolina



Legislative Updates

S 259 By Thurmond, **Summary: Tuition For Persons Over 60.**

TO AMEND SECTION 59-111-320 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO PERSONS AGE SIXTY AND OVER ATTENDING CLASSES AT STATE-SUPPORTED COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF TUITION, TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT THESE PERSONS RECEIVING COMPENSATION AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES MUST PAY TUITION

Status: Referred to House Ways and Means Committee 5/2/13. Did not pass 2013-14 session. Will need to be reintroduced in January 2015, at the beginning of the next two-year session .

Legislative Updates

CHE Section 11, Part 1B Section III, College Transition Connection

11.16. (CHE: College Transition Need-Based Grants) Of the currently appropriated need-based grants funding, no more than \$179,178 shall be used to provide need-based grants to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an established college transition program that serves students with intellectual disabilities. The Commission on Higher Education shall allocate the available funds to eligible institutions on the basis of student need and enrollment in the established college transition programs. All other grants and gift aid for which these students are eligible must be applied first to the cost of attendance prior to using the need-based grant funding. If the cost of attendance for an eligible student is met with all other grants and gift aid, the need-based grant shall not be used. The participating institutions, in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education , shall track the number of grant recipients and other information determined necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these grants in assisting students with intellectual disabilities in college transition programs.

Status: Effective July 1, 2013. Included in the 2014-15.

Legislative Updates

H 3710, Part IB: Proviso 3.6 (Budget Bill), Summary: Uniform Grading Policy for Renewal of Merit-Based State Scholarships

Added language to H 3710: (3.6) It is the intent of the General Assembly that beginning in school year 2014-15 students awarded the merit based scholarships of Palmetto Fellows Scholarships and Life shall remain eligible as long as the keep a grade average of 80 based on a 100 point scale. The Amount of time that the student is eligible shall be determined by the provisions of the scholarships. During the school year 2013-14, colleges and universities, from the funds appropriated to or authorized for each college and university, must develop a plan to implement this requirement.

Status: Did not pass 2013-14 session. Will need to be reintroduced in January 2015, at the beginning of the next two-year session .

Legislative Updates

Appropriations Act, Part 1B 3.5. LEA: FY 2014-15 Lottery Funding

11.19. (CHE: Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarships) A student may receive a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship award during the summer, in addition to fall and spring semesters of an academic year, provided continued eligibility requirements are met as of the end of the spring semester. Students must enroll full-time, which for purposes of the summer award will require enrollment in at least twelve hours over the course of the summer. The summer is defined as the period between the end of the spring term and prior to the opening of the fall term. The total summer award per student may not exceed half of the allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance and must be reimbursed if less than twelve hours for academic credit are not completed by the student during summer sessions. If awarded in the summer, a student's total award during his or her enrollment may not exceed the amount that would otherwise be provided under current semester limits applied for the scholarship awards. The Commission on Higher Education may provide additional guidelines necessary to ensure uniform implementation.

Status: Approved and included for FY 2014-15. Takes effect July 1, 2014.

SC Need-based Grant

- SC Need-based Grant:
 - The funding was increased to nearly the recommended Senate level. The Need-based program will be increased \$3,968,434 above the base level of \$23,661,566 for a total of \$27,400,000
 - Carry Forward Amount: \$1,368,608
- Lottery Tuition Assistance is funded level with last year. The LTAP amounts will remain the same for the 2014-15 academic year.
 - \$95/Credit hour
 - Up \$1,140 for a full-time student
- The merit scholarships are fully funded for anticipated growth

SC Need-based Grant: Initial Eligibility

- US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident
- SC Resident
- Demonstrate “need” as established under Title IV Regulations
 - Student must complete the FAFSA
- Certify that he/she has not been adjudicated delinquent or been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any felonies or any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related offenses
- Verify that he/she does not owe a refund or repayment for state/federal grants or student loans
- Be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours (part-time) in an eligible program

SC Need-based Grant: Foster Care Youth (FCY)

Need-based Grant for students in Foster care:

Must complete the FAFSA

Must submit verification (letter from DSS, court order)

Must mail waiver and verification to CHE

http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/studentservices/needbased/files/FCY-Waiver-Form-2014.pdf

Institution with eligible FCY must:

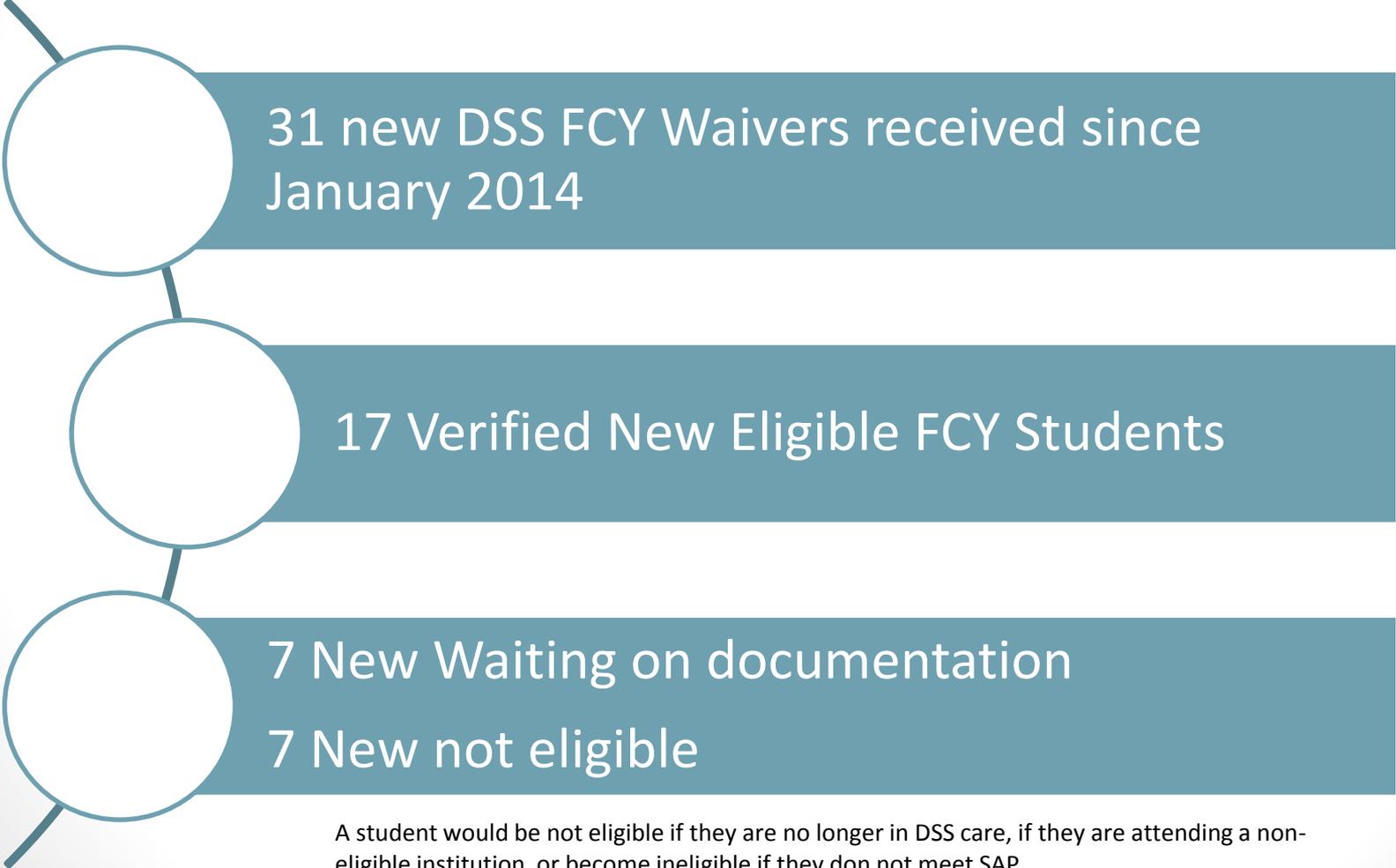
Submit invoice to “Student Financial Support”

Include Student Name on Invoice

Collaboration with DSS

Independent Living Graduation Ceremony

SC Need-based Grant: FCY



31 new DSS FCY Waivers received since
January 2014

17 Verified New Eligible FCY Students

7 New Waiting on documentation
7 New not eligible

A student would be not eligible if they are no longer in DSS care, if they are attending a non-eligible institution, or become ineligible if they do not meet SAP.

SC Need-based Grant: College Transition Program (CTP)

- Need-based Grant for students with intellectual disabilities
- 5 Eligible programs in SC:
 - *Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, USC, Winthrop**
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Enrolled in an eligible program
 - Demonstrate “need” (completed and submitted FAFSA must be on file)
 - Be in good standing
- Participating institutions award
- Websites:
 - www.welcometocollegelife.com
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UtymXSMsDU>
 - Rion Holcombe finding out he was accepted to college

* Winthrop is an eligible institution, however, they are waiting on their approval.

College Transition Program

For 2013-14 there were a total of **20 eligible students** that were awarded across four CTP programs

4 Institutions Participated 2013-2014: *Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, USC*
(Winthrop is scheduled to participate beginning Fall 2014)

\$139,736 awarded for 2013-2014

Allocated for 2013-2014 & 2014-15= **\$179,178**

Established invoice deadline for 2014-2015 year
Fall = September 30; Spring = February 25

Appeals

- The 2014 Appeals Cycle for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and SC HOPE scholarship opened May 2, 2014. All appeals materials must be in receipt of the CHE by the deadline close of **5:00 pm on September 26, 2014.**
- Students are encouraged to review the Guidelines for Appeal on the CHE website to determine if their circumstance truly meets the definition of an extraordinary circumstance or a traumatic event.
- Students should be advised that their appeal is not guaranteed to be granted, nor is it a guarantee that a decision will be rendered prior to the due date of their institutional bill. Students should make arrangement with the institution for payment.
- The link to the appeals information and application is:
<http://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/Appeals.aspx>

Initial Eligibility Requirements For The State Scholarship Programs

- In compliance with the established laws/regulations in place for the HOPE, LIFE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship programs, a student must meet the initial eligibility requirements in order to be a recipient of scholarship funds:
 - A student must be a US citizen/legal permanent resident*
 - A student must be a South Carolina resident*
 - No felony convictions
 - No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
 - Not in default of any state or federal loans
 - Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

**This must be determined at the time of high school graduation*

Residency as it Pertains to State Scholarships

To be eligible for any State scholarships, students must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes whose lawful presence has been verified at the time of enrollment at the institution; and
2. Be a South Carolina resident for in-state purposes at the time of high school graduation and at the time of enrollment at the institution

(As set forth by Section 59-112-10 through 140 and 59-149-20)

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS)

- Late Award
 - Application period closed June 15th
 - Currently processing 678 applications
 - Notifications will begin August 2014
- Early Award
 - Awarded 2,021 Palmetto Fellows Scholarships
 - Increase of **80** awardees from the 2013 Early Award
 - Designation Forms: 1,300
 - Still Need: **721!!**
- Transfers
 - Total Requests Completed to Date: 44
 - Pending: 17 (*institutions have been contacted regarding 2013-14 eligibility*)

Out-of-State High Schools & PFS Eligibility

- For students who have been determined to be South Carolina residents there is the potential that they **may be** eligible to participate in the State scholarship programs
- It is a “best practice” to **NOT** indicate/suggest/state that a student meets the eligibility requirements or is eligible for a State scholarship. It is *strongly* recommended to:
 - Provide to the student information on the State scholarship programs
 - All State scholarship and grant information:
<http://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/PayingForCollege/WhatFinancialHelpIsAvailable/ScholarshipsGrantsforSCResidents.aspx>
 - PFS Brochure:
http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/studentervices/palmetto_fellows_brochure.pdf
 - LIFE/SC HOPE Brochure:
http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/studentervices/LIFE_Hope_Brochure.pdf
 - Direct the student to the guidance counselor/high school representative

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

- Out-of-state schools must comply with SCUGP GPA reporting and ranking.
 - For those schools that have a grading scale that substantially deviates from the SC UGP:
 - If the institution determines that a state-approved standardized grading scale substantially deviates from the SC UGP, the grading scale must be submitted to CHE for further review
 - If CHE confirms the grade scale deviation, a transcript conversion to the SC UGP must be completed
 - If the institution is not converting the grades, the out-of-state high school must submit converted transcript in addition to the official out-of-state high school transcript
 - No handwritten or strikethrough edits can be demonstrated on the submitted transcript for scholarship eligibility determination

SSN:
DOB:
Year Entered:
Graduated:

			SCUGP Numerical Average	SCUGP Quality Points
Third Form (9th Grade) 2010-2011	Final Grade	Credit		
Honors English 300	A-	1	96	4.875
Spanish 2	A	1	96	4.375
Ancient & Medieval History	A	1	96	4.375
Honors Geometry	A-	1	96	4.875
Honors Physics - 3rd Form	A	1	96	4.875
Music - Beginning Bagpipes	A	1	96	4.375
			SCUGP Numerical Average	SCUGP Quality Points
Fourth Form (10th Grade) 2011-2012	Final Grade	Credit		
Honors English 400	B+	1	88	3.875
Honors Spanish 3	A	1	96	4.875
Honors Modern European History	B+	1	88	3.875
Honors Algebra 2	A	1	96	4.875
AP Chemistry	B+	1	88	4.375
Bible - Introduction	P			
			SCUGP Numerical Average	SCUGP Quality Points
Fifth Form (11th Grade) 2012-2013	Final Grade	Credit		
Honors English 500	A-	1	96	4.875
Spanish 4	A	1	96	4.375
Honors US History	A-	1	96	4.875
Honors Intro to Calculus	A-	1	96	4.875
AP Biology	B+	1	88	4.375
SAT Prep	A	0.33	96	4.375
Cumulative GPA		4.1		
SCUGP Cumulative GPA		4.559		

GRADE	COURSE NAME	CP	HONORS	AP	1st sem	2nd sem	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	QP x UNITS SEM 1	QP x UNITS SEM 2	Updated 11/11/2013	
							QUALITY POINTS	QUALITY POINTS				
9	Algebra I *		x		97	98	5.000	0.50	5.125	0.50	2.500	2.562
9	Art I	x			97	93	4.500	0.50	4.000	0.50	2.250	2.000
9	English IX*		x		96	96	4.875	0.50	4.875	0.50	2.437	2.437
9	French I	x			98	97	4.625	0.50	4.500	0.50	2.312	2.250
9	Freshman Honors Science *	x	x		95	95	4.750	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.375	2.375
9	Health/Wellness				99		4.750	0.50			2.375	
9	Int Phys Ed/Wellness	x				96			4.375	0.25		1.093
9	World Studies	x			100	99	4.875	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.437	2.375
10	AP US History			x	96	97	5.375	0.50	5.500	0.50	2.687	2.750
10	Biology Honors*		x		92	95	4.375	0.75	4.750	0.75	3.281	3.562
10	English X *		x		98	95	5.125	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.562	2.375
10	French II	x			92	92	3.875	0.50	3.875	0.50	1.937	1.937
10	French III *		x		95	95	4.750	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.375	2.375
10	Geometry *		x		93	92	4.500	0.50	4.375	0.50	2.250	2.187
10	PE Waiver X-country											
10	PE Waiver Track											
10	Web Tools	x			96	99	4.375	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.187	2.375
11	Algebra II *		x		93	97	4.500	0.50	5.000	0.50	2.250	2.500
11	AP English Language			x	93	94	5.000	0.50	5.125	0.50	2.500	2.562
11	AP Government			x	93	97	5.000	0.50	5.500	0.50	2.500	2.750
11	Chemistry Honors *		x		96	99	4.875	0.75	5.250	0.75	3.656	3.937
11	French IV *		x		94	96	4.625	0.50	4.875	0.50	2.312	2.437
11	Journalism I	x			100	99	4.875	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.437	2.375
11	PE Waiver Cross Country											
								10.50		10.25	49.620	49.214
											TOTAL UNITS	20.75
											TOTAL QP x UNITS	98.834
											GPA	4.763

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CERTIFIED BY
Margaret Blake
 MARGARET BLAKE
 NOVEMBER 13, 2013
 11/13/2013

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

- If a student is attempting to use rank as an eligibility criterion from an out-of-state high school:
 - The high school or home school association must have a policy on rank which has been reviewed to verify compliance with the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy and established statutes and regulations for the State scholarship programs.
 - If the high school or home school association does not rank as a policy, or the student does not meet the rank eligibility requirement once a conversion of the grades to meet the SC UGP GPA and rank requirement then student must use the Alternate Criteria for eligibility (SC UGP GPA and SAT/ACT score).
- If using rank, the entire academic class must be converted to the SCUGP and a ranking report that reflects all students in that academic class, the out-of-state GPA, the SC UGP GPA, and the rank based on the SC UGP GPA must be included in order to determine eligibility and award a State scholarship.

Elimination of Exit Exam

H*3919 Act 155 *General Bill, By Owens, Bowen, Patrick, Taylor, Anderson, Allison, Brannon, Loftis, Ballentine, Rivers, Huggins, Knight, Simrill, King, Willis, Whitmire, McCoy, Anthony, Crosby, Neal, Clyburn, Barfield, Bedingfield, R.L. Brown, Cobb-Hunter, George, Hayes, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Lucas, Pope, Putnam, G.R. Smith, Wells, Wood, Whipper, Mitchell, Robinson-Simpson and Dillard*

“59-18-310(B)...SO AS TO ELIMINATE THIS REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING WITH THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015, TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES THAT FORMER PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DID NOT GRADUATE OR RECEIVE A DIPLOMA SOLELY FOR FAILING THIS EXIT EXAM MAY PETITION BY JANUARY 31, 2015...”

HB 3919 contains 5 sections amending or adding new provisions to Title 59 - the South Carolina School Code of 1976:

§ 59-18-310(B) – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-48-35 – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-139-60 – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-18-325 (NEW) – College and Career Readiness Assessments

§ 59-18-950 – School Ratings Criteria – Removal of Exit Exam Performance Measurement

What Does This Mean?

- The exit exam is no longer required in order to receive a high school diploma
- Those students who failed to receive a high school diploma or were denied graduation solely for failing to meet the exit exam requirements may obtain a petition from the SC Department of Education
 - May petition the local school board to determine their eligibility to receive a high school diploma. The school board will determine the student's eligibility to receive a diploma.
- Requires the State to administer a college readiness assessment to all 11th grade students
 - Students will encouraged to take the SAT/ACT
- Requires the administration of WorkKeys assessment to all 11th grade students

What Does This Mean For Scholarships?

- An official transcript will not be adjusted
 - Separate documentation should be attached to the transcript by the high school or district (*indicating that the student received a high school diploma pursuant to Act 155*).
- Transcripts for students in the class of 2014 who received certificates during the May/June graduation, will reflect certificate, not diploma.
 - If a student passes the summer HSAP, another transcript would be printed to reflect the diploma status.
 - If the student did not take or pass the summer 2014 HSAP and petitioned for a diploma, the transcript would still indicate “certificate” and would include separate documentation.

Contact CHE if you have a student from the 2014 graduating class who is attempting to become eligible for the SC HOPE/LIFE scholarship

- Transcripts starting for the graduating class of 2015 moving forward
 - “Certificate” no longer an option
 - Only option is: Diploma or Non-Diploma Award (IEP students)

Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

ALL transcripts must identify SC UGP GPA

- All state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, therefore all transcripts must specifically state “SC UGP.”
 - Any transcript that states, “Weighted and Unweighted GPA” OR “Total GPA” will not be accepted for the purposes of awarding state scholarships as it must comply with the **SC UGP**.

All final official transcripts must be date calculated between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and

no later than **June 15th**

- The final grades/ranking cannot include grades earned after the official graduation date of the school year. Summer school grades earned after high school graduation cannot be used in the calculation.

Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

In order to determine eligibility for the State scholarship programs, the financial aid office would need to have a transcript (electronic or otherwise) that demonstrates the following items:

- A valid signature (electronic or otherwise) from a high school representative i.e.: principal, guidance counselor, district representative (**not** a vendor signature)
- Demonstrate that it is the final official transcript
- The graduation date
- SC UGP GPA and rank (if applicable)
- The date calculated date to be date calculated no later than June 15th

SC Public High School Transcripts

SC Public High Schools - PowerSchool

- For technical issues regarding submitting and/or printing electronic or paper transcripts should first be referred back to the high school or School District IT Department. Each high school and district has an identified contact that should work together first.
- If the issues cannot be resolved at that level, the school/district office can then contact the SC Department of Education PowerSchool Administrator.

SC Independent/Private/Home School Association Transcripts

- All transcripts being used for scholarship eligibility must demonstrate the SC UGP GPA on the transcript
- All final transcripts must be dated between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and **no later than June 15th**
- If the school/ home school association ranks its students as a policy, rank must be demonstrated on the transcript
- Rank must be on the transcript if there is a rank policy and students are using rank. Transcripts would need to demonstrate the following:
 - Student ranks 3 out of 112
 - Class Rank: 2nd out of 56
 - Rank: 1 of 20
- No numerical GPA's, transcript would need to demonstrate the following:
 - Need to state the SC UGP is being utilized
 - Totals/Averages cannot be used- a Cumulative GPA would need to accompany a numerical total or average

Year-Round Scholarships

- Proviso 11.19 (Appropriations Act, Part 1B 3.5. LEA: FY 2014-15 Lottery Funding) will take effect July 1, 2014
- Full implementation for summer 2015
- Students enrolled during summer 2014 may be eligible for award provided that the requisite hours have not been completed prior to July 1.
 - Students will need to self-identify and eligibility will need to be determined
- Added language to affidavit/certification form to reflect potential summer award

Eligible Students: Full-Time Enrollment Summer

Eligible for Fall Award If:	Eligible for Spring Award If:	Eligible For Summer Award If (PFS):	Summer Award Disbursed If:	Eligible for Fall Award If:
Enrolled in 12+ credit hours (or equivalent to full-time status)	Enrolled in 12+ credit hours (or equivalent to full-time status)	Earned 30 credit hours or the equivalent (earned 30 for the hours fall and spring term only) and earned a cumulative LIFE (institutional) 3.0 GPA at the end of Spring	Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours over the course of the summer term	Earned 30 credit hours or the equivalent (earned 30 credit hours fall and spring term only) and earned a cumulative LIFE (institutional) 3.0 GPA at the end of Spring



Institutions would review for eligibility for summer and/or fall at this point.

This is consistent with existing end of spring term eligibility review practices.

Enrollment verification would occur at an established date as determined by the regulations for eligibility to receive scholarship funds only. Eligibility review would not be required.

Any credit hours/grades earned over summer would be used towards continued scholarship eligibility determination at the end of the next spring semester



What Does This Mean?

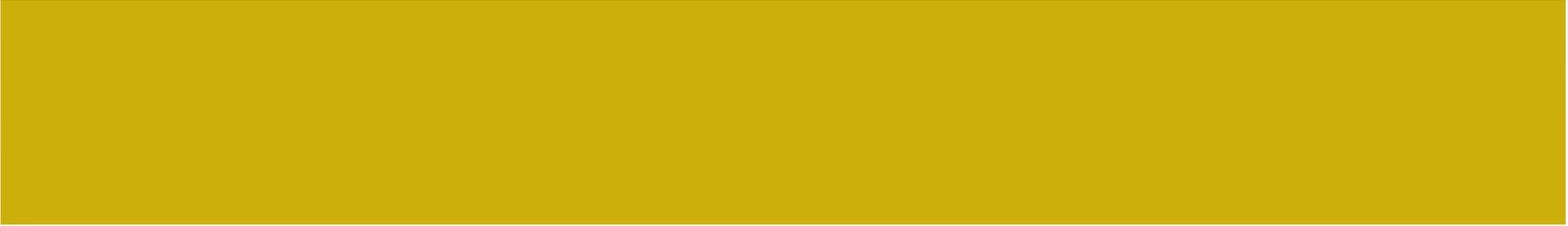
- Students who are eligible at the end of the spring term are eligible for a summer scholarship award/term of eligibility
- Students can still attend summer school and NOT use a summer scholarship award/term of eligibility
 - The student would be responsible for covering any tuition, fees, and costs
 - Any grades/credit hours earned over a summer semester will be used to determine continued eligibility
- A student who was determined to meet continued eligibility at the end of the spring term is eligible for a fall award REGARDLESS of academic performance during the summer
 - This is true for those students who use an award or do not use an award

Ineligible Students

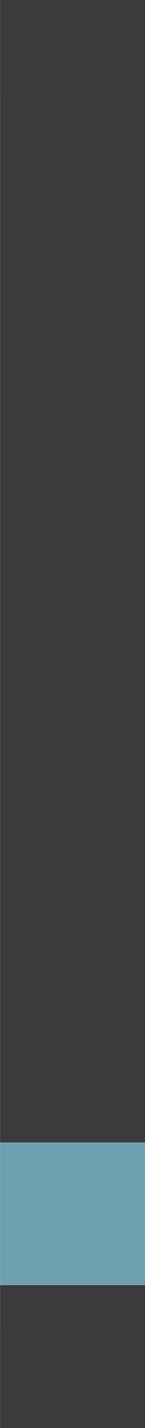
Eligible for Fall Award If:	Eligible for Spring Award If:	Not Eligible for Summer/Fall Award If (PFS):	Remediation Period	Eligible for Fall Award If:
12+ Credit hours	12+ Credit hours	Student earned less than 30 credit hours or its equivalent (earned less than 30 credit hours in the fall and spring terms) and/or less than a 3.0 cumulative LIFE (institutional) GPA at the end of Spring	<p>Student has maymester and/or summer to earn requisite credit hours/GPA.</p> <p>This would be an out-of-pocket expense incurred by the student.</p>	Earned at least 30 credit hours (or its equivalent) and earned at least a 3.0 cumulative LIFE (institutional) GPA at the end of maymester and/or summer



If the student is not eligible at the end of summer, the next review of eligibility for scholarship funds will occur at the end of the following Spring semester. The student is still using terms of eligibility.



Questions



CHE Contact Information

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- Elizabeth Caulder, Associate Director of Student Financial Support
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