



August 1, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Directors of Financial Aid, SC Home School Associations

From: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Subject: Home School Students and LIFE Scholarship Eligibility

Purpose:

Due to concerns expressed by home school parents and home school associations across the State concerning the timing of the memorandum issued by the Commission on Higher Education on June 6, 2006 titled “Home School Students and LIFE Scholarship Eligibility,” we are providing institutions with the requirements herein for determining LIFE Scholarship eligibility for home school students for the 2006-07 academic year.

The memorandum established on June 6, 2006, stated that home school students must have their transcripts approved by a home school association and that grade conversions to the SC Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) by parents will not be accepted by the Commission for LIFE Scholarship eligibility. As stated in this document, **home school parents or legal guardians are allowed to approve students’ transcripts and to convert students’ transcripts to the UGS to meet the GPA requirement for the LIFE Scholarship. This constitutes a change to the June 6th policy guideline.** The home school transcript must include a statement or a notation indicating that the GPA listed on the home school student’s transcript is based on the Uniform Grading Scale. In addition, if the GPA listed on the home school student’s transcript is not based on the Uniform Grading Scale, then the student must have the grades converted to the UGS and resubmit the converted transcript to the institution to be awarded the LIFE Scholarship. Transcripts that are hand-written and/or transcripts that are not converted to the SC Uniform Grading Scale will not be accepted for LIFE Scholarship eligibility.

LIFE Scholarship Eligibility for First-time Entering Freshman:

1. Eligibility Criteria:

All students must meet the following initial eligibility criteria for the LIFE Scholarship:

Initial Eligibility Requirements for First-time Full-time Entering Freshmen

Attending Four-year Institutions (meet two of the three criteria):

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale;
- Minimum 1100 SAT or 24 ACT; or
- Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale.

Initial Eligibility Requirements for First-time Full-time Entering Freshmen

Attending Two-year Institutions:

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale (the standardized test score and class rank requirements are waived).

Home School Associations:

A home school student who has successfully completed a high school home school program in this State in the manner required by law may qualify for a LIFE Scholarship, if the student has met the eligibility criteria. In order for a home school student to qualify for a State scholarship, the home school program must be sanctioned according to one of the following:

1. The board of trustees of the district in which the student resides under Section 59-65-40;
2. The South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools (SCAIHS) under Section 59-65-45; or
3. A home school association approved under Section 59-65-47 (Third Option Home School Associations).

Home School Students and LIFE Scholarship Eligibility:

To be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship, all students must have their grades converted to the SC Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) upon high school graduation. Students who are home schooled **must** have grades converted to the Uniform Grading Scale to be awarded the LIFE Scholarship. For the 2006-07 academic year, institutions must determine LIFE Scholarship eligibility for students who graduate from home school programs as identified above by using the GPA based on the Uniform Grading Scale listed on the student's transcript. The home school transcript must include a statement or a notation indicating that the GPA listed on the home school student's transcript is based on the Uniform Grading Scale. If the GPA listed on the home school student's transcript is not based on the Uniform Grading Scale, then the student must have the grades converted to the Uniform Grading Scale and resubmit the converted transcript to the institution to be awarded the LIFE Scholarship.

Home school students must submit a home school transcript indicating that the student's cumulative grade point average is based on the Uniform Grading Scale. If the home school student is unable to have his or her grades converted to the Uniform Grading Scale, then the student **cannot** be awarded the LIFE Scholarship and **must** earn eligibility for the Scholarship by maintaining a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year at an eligible institution to be awarded the LIFE Scholarship for the remaining terms of eligibility. Transcripts that are hand-written and/or transcripts that are not converted to the SC Uniform Grading Scale will not be accepted for LIFE Scholarship eligibility. Institutions and students must comply with all requirements as established in state statute and regulation for the LIFE Scholarship.

Questions:

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification regarding this policy guideline, please contact Dr. Tajuana Massie, LIFE Scholarship Manager, at (803) 737-2271 or Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services, at (803) 737-2244.