

Program to Allow Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired, and Multi-handicapped Students to use State Funds at Specialized Out-of-State Institutions

Description of Program

S.204 was signed into law on June 1, 2005. This bill allows a visually impaired, hearing impaired or multi-handicapped* student, who qualifies for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship, or Lottery Tuition Assistance, to receive State funds to attend an approved out-of-state institution that specializes in educating visually impaired, hearing impaired or multi-handicapped students. The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) must certify the student's impairment or multi-handicap by verifying medical documentation and certify that no in-state institution exists to specifically meet the student's need. Funds cannot be used simply for specialized programs at out-of-state institutions – the institution itself must be specialized in educating students having the specific impairment or multi-handicap.

Students must qualify to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship, or Lottery Tuition Assistance to receive funds. Please see our Scholarship eligibility requirements to determine if you may be eligible: [Scholarships & Grants](#). Please note that the Palmetto Fellows and SC HOPE Scholarships may be used at an approved four- year institutions only and Lottery Tuition Assistance may only be used at an approved two-year institution. You may contact Ms. Elizabeth Caulder for questions regarding this provision, at (803) 737-2262 or ecaulder@che.sc.gov.

Currently approved institutions for the program include: Gallaudet University. If you would like to attend an out-of-state institution not listed about but believe it qualifies as an institution that specializes in educating visually impaired, hearing impaired, or multi-handicapped students, please contact Ms. Caulder at CHE. Please note that in order to be considered, institutions must be specialized in educating students having the specific impairment or multi-handicap and be accredited by a recognized regional accrediting body. CHE makes all decisions regarding institutional eligibility.

To be considered for this Program please submit:

- Letter of Request: The letter must describe how the special institution would benefit student (must be written and signed by the student or parent/legal guardian);
- Completed Application;
- Official high school transcript and transcript(s) from any college/university attended;
- Proof of handicap: The prospective student must be certified by a specialist that his or her impairment requires special education and instruction to be suited to his or her needs;
- Proof of acceptance to the specialized college/university in which the student would like to attend and copy of institutional student aid report.

Please mail all documents listed above to: South

Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Attn: Elizabeth Caulder
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201

*In addition to a sensory disabling condition (visually impaired or hearing impaired), the student must have at least one additional disabling condition that qualifies the child to receive special education.