

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

January 22, 2020

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) Board held a meeting on January 22, 2020 at 10:00 am at the HESAA offices in Hamilton.

PRESENT: HESAA Board Members Dr. Jon Larson; Ms. Jean McDonald Rash; Mr. Bader Qarmout (teleconference); Mr. Robert Shaughnessy, Treasurer's Designee; Ms. Angela Bethea, Secretary of Higher Education's Designee; Mr. David Socolow; Ms. Maria Torres; and Ms. Christy Van Horn, chair.

ABSENT: Ms. Stephanie Berdugo-Hernandez and Ms. Madeline Perard.

CALL TO ORDER

Christy Van Horn called the meeting to order at 10:08 am and David Socolow stated that the meeting had been noticed in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Ms. Van Horn led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Van Horn welcomed the Board members and advised that because some members were participating via teleconference, Roseann Sorrentino would conduct a roll call for the resolutions.

Ms. Van Horn welcomed Joy Johnson, Associate Counsel from the Governor's Authorities Unit.; Jennifer Hoff, Deputy Attorney General; and Erin Herlihy, Deputy Attorney General from the New Jersey Division of Law.

Ms. Van Horn introduced new Public member Beatrice Daggett.

Jennifer Hoff swore in Public member Beatrice Daggett.

Ms. Van Horn advised that no members of the public registered to speak.

Ms. Van Horn asked Roseann Sorrentino to call the roll.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2019 MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting was made by Dr. Jon Larson and seconded by Ms. Jean McDonald Rash. The minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention, Ms. Beatrice Daggett, who did not participate in the October 23, 2019 meeting.

RESOLUTION 01:20 APPROVING THE SECOND EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT WITH CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR ONE YEAR

Christy Van Horn presented Resolution 01:20 to the Board.

At our January 28, 2016 meeting this Board appointed CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as HESAA's independent auditor pursuant to Governor McGreevy's Executive Order 122. The contract with CliftonLarsonAllen is for an initial three year term with two one-year extensions at the option of HESAA. At our January 23, 2019 meeting, this Board approved the first optional one-year renewal. The contract is now subject to its second optional one-year renewal.

Over the past four years we have found that the Auditors demonstrate the required expertise on bond fund audits as well as a focus on privacy protections. They have proven to be credible, efficient, and effective in their evaluation of systems of internal controls, financial transaction testing, and fraud testing.

It is recommended that the Board approve Resolution 01:20 providing the final one-year extension to the appointment of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as Independent Auditor at a cost of \$89,200 for the year.

A motion to approve Resolution 01:20 was made by Mr. Bader Qarmout and seconded by Mr. Robert Shaughnessy.

The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 02:20 ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

Marnie Grodman presented Resolution 02:20 to the Board.

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is statutorily responsible for the administration of the State scholarship and tuition aid programs and for the promulgation of all rules to that effect.

At its July 24, 2019 meeting the HESAA Board approved proposed regulatory amendments to implement P.L. 2017 c. 360, which created part-time eligibility for NJ STARS and NJ STARS II in limited circumstances; P.L. 2018 c. 12, which extended the State student financial aid assistance programs to New Jersey Dreamers; and P.L. 2018 c. 144, which created three plus one degree programs, as well as to clarify and strengthen eligibility requirements for State student financial assistance programs.

The proposed amendments were published in the September 16, 2019 New Jersey Register, posted on the HESAA website, and sent to the Statehouse News Media. In addition, secondary notice was emailed to interested parties and a press release was distributed to the news media. Public comments were received from the Executive Council of the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NJASFAA); Rabbi Aaron Kotler, President of Beth Medrash

Govoha; and James Anderson, Director of Financial Aid at Montclair State University. All of the comments and HESAA's responses are summarized in the materials.

As fully explained in the materials, HESAA will be making one non-substantive change upon adoption. The NJASFAA Executive Council requested that HESAA update the reference to the Federal Student Aid Handbook in N.J.A.C. 9A:2.3(a) from 2013-2014 to the current handbook. Although, the current reference is to the Federal Student Aid Handbook as amended and supplemented, which always incorporates the current version of the Federal Student Aid Handbook, HESAA will make the update to the regulations.

Additionally, HESAA will not be adopting the proposed amendments to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.1(b)5. As the NJASFAA Executive Council commented, the proposed amendment does not mirror the recently enacted Shopping Sheet statute, P.L. 2019 c. 201. Therefore, HESAA has determined that it will make an amendment to N.J.A.C. 9A:2-1(b)5ii. However, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-6.3, this amendment is not permitted to be made upon adoption so the rule will be re-proposed in the future.

As none of the other comments warranted amendments to the proposal, it is recommended that the Board approve Resolution 02:20 adopting amendments to the regulations governing HESAA's grants and scholarships programs.

A motion to approve Resolution 02:20 was made by Ms. Maria Torres and seconded by Dr. Jon Larson.

The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON NJFAMS SYSTEMS

Kathryn Safran, Director of Grants and Scholarships gave a presentation demonstrating to the Board the efficiencies achieved since the implementation of the New Jersey Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS). Ms. Safran highlighted the benefits the new system has provided to students, schools, and HESAA staff, as well as the monetary savings HESAA has realized through processing efficiencies. She thanked the Board for their support and foresight in implementing this system.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thank you Chairwoman Van Horn, members of the Board, and guests. And it's a special pleasure to once again welcome the newest member of the Board, Bea Daggett.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide updates on HESAA's activities since the Board met last October.

JobsNJ: New State Plan for Developing Talent to Grow Business in the Garden State

Last week, Governor Murphy released "JobsNJ," a comprehensive, inter-agency state plan for talent development. The Governor's plan recognizes that New Jersey's skilled workforce is a key competitive advantage that drives our state's economic growth, and we must continually reinvest

in workers' skills to create job opportunities for individuals and help employers recruit and retain the highly talented workers they need to expand their enterprises.

HESAA's mission of increasing college opportunities for individuals will play a key role in JobsNJ, including the plan's strategies to help working adult independent students and students of color complete a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential with the labor market value they need to succeed in their careers. In particular, to prepare students and open doors for working people and historically disadvantaged populations, the plan sets goals that, by 2025, at least 25,000 additional adults will enroll and graduate with a high-quality credential; at least 250,000 additional Black, Latinx, and Native American individuals will attain postsecondary credentials; and at least 45 percent of working-age adults in all New Jersey counties will have a quality postsecondary credential.

Getting more students across the finish line to graduation is a key to realizing this vision – and to achieve that goal, the plan outlines several strategies for college completion and making college more affordable, such as by promoting transparent, predictable, and guaranteed higher education pricing following the model of our Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) program.

Another segment of the JobsNJ plan focuses on expanding work-based learning which enables New Jerseyans to “earn while they learn,” so they can develop the skills that employers value while receiving income. By enabling students to accelerate along the pathway to a credential, we can reduce their burden of paying for postsecondary education. The state will soon announce opportunities for higher education institutions to partner with employers to create “degree apprenticeships” as part of the New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education (NJPLACE) initiative. HESAA's financial aid programs can provide crucial financial support for eligible students participating in one of these new degree apprenticeships.

We look forward to the opportunity to working with partners and stakeholders in implementing the Governor's vision of Jobs NJ.

Recently Enacted Legislation

Over the past few days, Governor Murphy signed into law several HESAA-related bills passed by the Legislature at the end of their two-year session.

Public Law 2019, c. 298 establishes a new Study Commission which will consider the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program. The Commission is charged with identifying any barriers, gaps, or deficiencies in the successful operation of TAG and then developing recommendations for improvements to the program to be included in a final report to the Governor and the Legislature that must be submitted no later than mid-February 2021. The 10 members of the Commission will include five individuals appointed by the Governor to represent New Jersey's public research universities, State colleges and universities, county colleges, independent colleges and universities, and licensed degree-granting proprietary schools, as well as the executive director of HESAA and four public members appointed by the leaders of the Senate and the Assembly. I look forward to the Commission's work in evaluating policy options for supporting college access and affordability, and to building on New Jersey's significant commitment to need-based financial aid through the TAG program.

The Governor also signed P.L. 2019, c. 282, which permits certain students who are incarcerated in State prisons to be eligible for State-funded student financial aid, subject to approval by the Department of Corrections (DOC). We are already implementing this policy through a one-year budget authorization for the current academic year, 2019-20, in partnership with the DOC, and now it is codified in state law going forward.

And just yesterday, the Governor signed four more bills into law that directly affect HESAA: Senate bills 376, 700, 765, and 1832. The first law, P.L. 2019 c. 378, expands HESAA's Survivor Tuition Benefits program, so that surviving spouses of New Jersey firefighters, emergency service workers, and law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty can now receive free tuition benefits at New Jersey public colleges at any point, rather than being limited to the first eight years after their spouse's death. The second, S700 (P.L. 2019 c. 383), clarifies the rules for determining state financial aid eligibility based on the New Jersey residency of both dependent students and their parents, and ensures that this process does not discriminate based on the parents' immigration or citizenship status or national origin. Third, S765 (P.L. 2019 c. 386), now ensures that, for NJCLASS loan borrowers participating in a repayment plan pursuant to a settlement agreement, HESAA will not seek to recoup any state lottery winnings or tax rebates or refunds to which the borrower may be entitled. And finally, S1832 (P.L. 2019 c. 401) authorizes a new loan redemption program and a tuition reimbursement program for teachers who commit to up to four years of teaching science, technology, engineering, or math in a low-performing public school.

Finally, a new federal law was enacted on December 19, 2019, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act. This law includes key reforms that will benefit students applying for both Federal and State financial aid. The FUTURE Act will make it easier for students and families to apply for all financial aid and for federal student loan borrowers to access affordable student loan repayment options, and will significantly improve program integrity and reduce administrative burden for students, families, schools, and the state and federal governments. By allowing the Internal Revenue Service to share taxpayer data directly with the U.S. Department of Education, the new law is expected to eliminate 22 questions from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and streamline the FAFSA-filing process. State higher education agencies, including HESAA, are specifically authorized under this new law to receive and use all of the IRS data on the FAFSA for the application, administration, and award of State-funded financial aid.

Once the FUTURE Act becomes effective, students' and families' income data will be directly imported into the FAFSA, they will not have to manually input this information in a cumbersome, multi-step process. And because students' and parents' actual original federal tax data will now be included with the FAFSA record, HESAA and college financial aid administrators will no longer need to investigate discrepancies between IRS data and information on the FAFSA, and applicants will no longer have to contact the IRS to obtain proof of non-filing of a tax return. The FUTURE Act also includes:

- Mandatory funding of \$195 million per year for federally-designated Minority-Serving Institutions, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions;
- Increased funding for federal Pell grants;

- A provision allowing the use of IRS tax data to automatically re-certify the annual incomes of federal student loan borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans; and
- A provision allowing the IRS data to be used to verify borrowers' income when they apply to have their federal student loan balance forgiven due to total and permanent disability.

FAFSA Completion Update

Our work to increase FAFSA awareness and completion goes hand in hand with federal initiatives to make the FAFSA less burdensome, as both aim to help more students apply for the aid they can receive. HESAA's dedicated team in the Client Services has expanded our outreach to help more New Jersey students and families complete the FAFSA as a crucial first step to getting help paying for college. Over the past few months, we have partnered with United Way of Paterson, the Newark City of Learning Collaborative, the Student Success Center led by Make the Road New Jersey and the Elizabeth Public Schools, Trenton Central High School, and the Camden Board of Education to reach even more students. In these and other locations, we're helping to encourage a higher percentage of high school seniors to complete the FAFSA – and in several of these locations, the completion percentage grew year-over-year from the mid-50s to the mid-70s. Overall, New Jersey now ranks sixth in the nation in high school seniors completing the FAFSA, with several months to go before the start of the next academic year in fall 2020.

Providing Financial Aid Information at the New Jersey Civil Service Commission's Job Fairs
Thousands of jobseekers who are interested in public sector employment have attended the New Jersey Civil Service Commission's job fairs, which have been held over the past several months in multiple locations across the state. By staffing a table at each event, HESAA has increased awareness of financial aid options for more than one hundred working adults whom we have had the opportunity to counsel about the support available for pursuing postsecondary education here in New Jersey.

FFELP Transition

As of December 31, 2019, HESAA has terminated our service as a guaranty agency under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). New Jersey's FFELP portfolio had been declining since Congress eliminated the program in 2010, with no new FFELP loans originated in almost a decade. Thanks to effective collaboration among staff across the Authority, including the Divisions of Information Services, Loans, Finance, Compliance, and Client Services, we have successfully converted and migrated data on New Jersey's remaining active FFELP portfolio to the successor guaranty agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). It took an enormous and focused effort to accomplish the hundreds of tasks required to meet this December 31 deadline, which our team achieved with magnificent professionalism and dedication. Everyone involved in this project deserves tremendous thanks. Now that Kentucky is up and running as the guaranty agency on the active loan portfolio, we are reconciling data, preparing financial reports, and getting ready for the subsequent migration of inactive loan files. We also have begun an 18-month phased-in redeployment of staff and resources to perform other important functions at HESAA, aligning with the workflow and process changes that will be enabled by the new technology for administering NJCLASS loans and the subsequent decommissioning of HESAA's antiquated mainframe computer system.

Update on development of CLASS technology system

As you heard in the previous presentation, over the past few years, HESAA's modernized technology system for processing grants and scholarships has greatly increased efficiency and enabled the Authority to roll out innovative programs faster and more reliably. We hope to have a similar success once we begin processing NJCLASS loans using the Collections, Loan Accounting, and Servicing System (CLASS) system that the Board authorized HESAA to develop last year. We are now in week 35 of the 60-week schedule for design, development, testing, staff training, and deployment of this new CLASS system, and this project remains on track for several months of testing this winter and spring, leading up to implementation in the summer. We are very grateful to the Board for your support of these important technology projects that enable HESAA to improve our services to the students and families of New Jersey.

Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director David Socolow introduced HESAA employees who celebrated milestone anniversaries of at least 20 years of service to the Authority in 2018 and 2019.

Christy Van Horn expressed the Board's appreciation for everyone's hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Van Horn advised that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 10:00 am.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bader Qarmout and seconded by Ms. Angela Bethea. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.



State of New Jersey

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Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

DAVID J. SOCOLOW
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

FROM: Christy Van Horn *(Signature)*
Audit Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution 01:20 – Approving the Extension of the Contract with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Independent Auditor

DATE: January 22, 2020

Background

Governor McGreevy's Executive Order (E.O.) 122 requires public authorities, agencies and commissions to create an Audit Committee. Among other duties, the Audit Committee is charged with recommending to the Board the appointment of an independent auditor to conduct an audit of the Authority's financial statements. Under E.O. 122, an Audit Evaluation Committee is responsible for issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for auditing services, evaluating responses to the RFP, and forwarding its recommendation to the Audit Committee. After reviewing the Audit Evaluation Committee recommendation, the Audit Committee forwards the recommendation to the full HESAA Board for approval.

At its January 28, 2016 meeting the Board appointed CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as the auditing firm for HESAA for the initial term of three years, beginning with the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, subject to two one-year extensions at the option of HESAA. The Board appointed CliftonLarsonAllen LLP because they had an overall superior technical approach to the job, which was well framed in their proposal. This firm's wealth of experience stood out to the Audit Evaluation Committee. Based on their proposal and past experience, the Committee found them to be credible, efficient and effective and felt they have the required experience in evaluation of systems of internal control, financial transaction testing and fraud testing. The committee found that CliftonLarsonAllen demonstrates the required expertise on bond fund audits as well as a focus on privacy protections and that they assign an appropriately sized team to

HESAA. The committee agreed that the firm proposed a fair price based on an accurate assessment of the audit services to be performed.

At its January 23, 2019 meeting, the Board approved the first optional renewal of the contract with CliftonLarsonAllen for the fiscal year 2019 audit. The contract is subject to its second optional renewal for the audit of the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. It would be in HESAA's best interest to exercise the second of its options and extend the contract with CliftonLarsonAllen for one year.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the attached Resolution 01:20 providing a one-year extension to the appointment of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as Independent Auditor, at a cost of \$89,200 for the year.

Attachment

RESOLUTION 01:20

**APPROVING THE EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT WITH
CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP, INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**

Moved By: Mr. Bader Qarmout
Seconded By: Mr. Robert Shaughnessy

WHEREAS: Executive Order (E.O.) 122 requires the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to appoint an Independent Auditor; and

WHEREAS: At its January 28, 2016 meeting the Board appointed CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as the auditing firm for HESAA for the initial term of three years, beginning with the 2016 fiscal year, subject to two one-year extensions at the option of HESAA; and

WHEREAS: At its January 23, 2019 meeting the Board approved the first optional renewal for the 2019 fiscal year;

WHEREAS: The contract with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP is subject to its second and final optional renewal for the 2020 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS: It was determined that it would be in HESAA's best interest to exercise the first of its options to extend the contract with CliftonLarsonAllen for one year.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE:

RESOLVED: That the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority hereby approves a one-year extension to the appointment of CliftonLarsonAllen as independent auditor at a cost of \$89,200.

January 22, 2020



State of New Jersey

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

DAVID J. SOCOLOW
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

THROUGH: David J. Socolow *DJS*
Executive Director

FROM: Marnie B. Grodman, Esq. *mbg*
Director, Legal & Governmental Affairs
Administrative Practice Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution 02:20 Adopting Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Grant and Scholarship Programs, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2, 9A:9-10 and 9A:9-11

DATE: January 22, 2020

Background

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-1 et seq., the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is statutorily responsible for the administration of State scholarship and tuition aid programs and for the promulgation of all rules to that effect.

At its July 24, 2019 meeting the HESAA Board approved proposed regulatory amendments to implement P.L. 2017 c. 360; P.L. 2018 c. 12; and P.L. 2018 c. 144 as well as to clarify and strengthen eligibility requirements for State student financial assistance programs.

The proposed amendment, PRN 2019-133, was published in the September 16, 2019 New Jersey Register at 51 N.J.R. 1451, posted on the HESAA website at HESAA.org, and sent to the Statehouse News Media. In addition, secondary notice was emailed to interested parties and a press release was distributed to the news media. The 60-day legislative review period for this rule expired on October 6, 2019 with no comments received, and the public comment period for this rule expired on November 15, 2019. Public comments were received from the Executive Council of the New Jersey Association of Financial Aid Administrators (NJASFAA); Rabbi Aaron Kotler, President of Beth Medrash Govoha; and James Anderson, Director of Financial Aid at Montclair State University. The comments are summarized below along with HESAA's responses.

COMMENT: The NJASFAA Executive Council requests that the Authority amend N.J.A.C. 9A:2-1(b)5ii. to read “Beginning with academic year 2020-2021, provides a financial aid shopping sheet, *which complies with the New Jersey-specific Shopping Sheet, per P.L.2019, c.201, or the current model shopping sheet (now called a College Financing Plan) published by the U.S. Department of Education* , to each prospective student as part of the financial aid offer to provide students and their families with clear information on the net costs of attendance after application of grants and scholarships, loan options, and estimated debt that the student will incur to attend the institution.” The commenters believe that their suggested alternative language better comports to P.L. 2019 c. 201 in that the statute only requires the institutions to provide the shopping sheet to prospective students. In addition the commenters stated that they are required to provide the College Financing Plan to veterans and that the College Financial Plan no longer requires some of the data that the State may require. The commenters are concerned that the format prescribed by the Authority may require the institutions to complete onerous research.

RESPONSE: The Authority has determined that it will amend N.J.A.C. 9A:2-1(b)5ii. As, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-6.3, this amendment is not permitted to be made upon adoption, the rule will be re-proposed in a future issue of the New Jersey Register and the proposed new subparagraph N.J.A.C. 9A:2-1(b)5ii published in the September 16, 2019 New Jersey Register as part of PRN 2019-133 will not be adopted at this time.

COMMENT: The NJASFAA Executive Council requests an update to the reference to the Federal Student Handbook in N.J.A.C. 9A:2.3(a) from 2013-2014 to the current handbook.

RESPONSE: As the current reference in N.J.A.C. 9A:2.3(a) is to the Federal Student Aid Handbook as amended and supplemented, the rule always incorporates the current version of the Federal Student Aid Handbook. However, in response to the commenter, HESAA will update N.J.A.C. 9A:2.3(a) to cite the current year’s Federal Student Aid Handbook.

COMMENT: The NJASFAA Executive Council expressed concerns with the proposed new section, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.4(d)2, in that the Council believes it will be too onerous and costly for students to provide proof of mailing of their Selective Service registration. The commenters request that schools be permitted to accept a copy of the registrations as proof of the students’ submission for registration with the Selective Service.

RESPONSE: A photocopy of the registration form only proves that the student filled out the registration form; it does not prove that the student submitted the registration form. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-6, students who are subject to the provisions of the Military Selective Service Act are not eligible for State student financial aid unless they register for Selective Service. To ensure compliance with this requirement, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.4(d)2 provides three options for students to prove they have registered: filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, providing a copy of the Selective Service Registration Card, or providing proof that the student mailed the registration form to the Selective Service System, if the student is in his first semester. To ease some of the time burdens for students, the Authority specifically included the option for first semester students to provide proof that they mailed the registration form to the Selective Service System because it can take up to 90 days to receive the Selective Service Registration

card. In addition, the cost of providing proof is not overly expensive. Pursuant to the U.S. Postal Services website, usps.com, a certificate of mailing, Form 3817, currently costs \$1.45.

COMMENT: The NJASFAA Executive Council, Rabbi Aaron Kotler, and James Anderson all expressed concerns with the amendments to N.J.S.A. 9A:9-2.7. Rabbi Kotler requests that HESAA reconsider the requirement to produce income proof received through a Federal or State agency because he believes it creates a barrier to access for low-income students who were not required to file a tax return in the base year. He also suggested that the Authority accept a projected year tax return that was filed with the IRS.

Similarly, the NJASFAA Executive Council states that it is not a realistic expectation for students who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, veterans, or undocumented to be able to provide documentable proof, received through a Federal or State agency, of taxable and/or untaxed income. This commenter requested that HESAA assess these students with in-kind support amounts that assume a minimal standard of living.

Mr. Anderson requested that the Authority assess in-kind support for independent students. He stated that he understood “there was a concern that some students who become independent based on age were receiving TAG even though they still had the support of parents of significant means, and that this was a misallocation of limited resources that are intended to support needy students.” Mr. Anderson agrees with the objectives of the policy but is concerned with the “unintended consequences of denying TAG to high needs students simply because they have become independent based solely on age.” He recommends that HESAA include in its procedures a review of students who are receiving TAG as dependent students who transition into independent status to ensure that students do not lose eligibility based solely on age.

RESPONSE: As Mr. Anderson stated, the reason behind the requirements of N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.7 is to ensure that there is not a misallocation of the limited State resources that are intended to support needy students. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-21(a), the Authority has the responsibility of ensuring that need-based financial aid is directed to students who have verifiable need. To maintain the integrity of the programs the Authority administers, HESAA can only verify need through reputable sources, such as State and Federal agencies. If the Authority were not to seek verification when students report zero income, but instead were to impute in-kind support, it would open the door to undetectable levels of erroneously awarded State financial aid to students who failed to properly report their true income.

Additionally, the Authority does not accept projected year tax returns in order to align with the information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which relies on prior-prior year tax information. When there are changes to a student’s financial situation due to circumstances that are out of that student’s control, such as unemployment, the student is still able to report that change to the school which will evaluate the student’s eligibility for a change of circumstances for State financial aid and submit that change to the Authority.

The Authority will take under consideration Rabbi Kotler and Mr. Anderson’s suggestions regarding policies on how State and Federal documentation is reviewed. While State or Federal documentation of income is required to determine need, the Authority will review whether there

are other methods of reviewing the required verifiable documentation to ensure no needy students are inadvertently harmed.

COMMENT: Rabbi Kotler and Mr. Anderson both requested that students who cannot provide documentation of earned income, and also cannot provide verifiable documentation of their receipt of unemployment insurance, child support, alimony, food assistance benefits, health insurance benefits, public need-based cash assistance benefits, or Social Security benefits be permitted to provide proof of one source of benefits from a Federal or State program instead of the two sources required by the rule.

RESPONSE: The basic life expenses are food, shelter, and healthcare. For students certifying they had zero income, the Authority requires students to provide proof of two sources of benefits that provide for these basic life expenses in order to verify how they met these living costs. The Authority must have an accurate view of a student's economic circumstances to ensure the State's limited resources are directed to the intended recipients.

COMMENT: With regards to students and parents proving they have two documentable sources of income, Mr. Anderson requested that HESAA permit appeals in cases where dependent students claim to be financially supporting their parents, and allow students in such cases to provide as an alternative documentation that the students are providing such support to their parents. He states that current policy does not acknowledge such situations.

RESPONSE: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.15 students are permitted to appeal the determination of whether or not they are eligible for State financial aid. The appeal process requires students to describe in writing the basis for the appeal. While the Authority acknowledges that there could be situations where dependent students support their parents, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.7, as amended, requires families to provide the Authority with documented proof, received from a Federal or State agency, of taxable and/or untaxed income to ensure families are not misrepresenting the family's income and that they are not having students declared independent simply to receive additional financial aid. If HESAA cannot verify that a dependent student is financially supporting his or her parent, HESAA cannot award need-based aid.

Attached to Resolution 02:20 is the Rule Proposal as published in the September 16, 2019 New Jersey Register.

As discussed above, there are two technical amendments that will be made to the proposal upon adoption. **Full text** of the adopted amendments to the proposal follows (additions to proposal indicated in boldface with asterisks ***thus***; deletions from proposal indicated in brackets with asterisks ***[thus]***):

9A:9-2.1 Undergraduate enrollment and eligible institutions

(a) (No change.)

(b) An eligible institution means an institution of higher education that:

1.-4. (No change.)

5. Upon commencing participation in the State financial aid programs[, annually]:

i. (No change.)

[ii. Beginning with academic year [2020-2021, provides a financial aid shopping sheet, in the format prescribed by the Authority, to each prospective and returning student as part of the financial aid offer to provide students and their families with clear information on the net costs of attendance after application of grants and scholarships, loan options, and estimated debt that the student will incur to attend the institution.]

(c)–(d) (No change.)

9A:9-2.3 Noncitizens and resident aliens

(a) In order to receive a grant or scholarship, a noncitizen of the United States of America or resident alien must present affirmative evidence that he or she is not in the United States for the temporary purpose of obtaining an education. Acceptable affirmative evidence is delineated annually by the United States Department of Education in the Federal Student Aid Handbook published at <http://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/byAwardYear.jsp?type=fsahandbook>. The acceptable affirmative evidence standards set forth in Volume 1, Chapter 2, Citizenship, of the *[2013-2014]* *2019-2020* Federal Student Aid Handbook, which is incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented. For a noncitizen of the United States of America, or resident alien, legal New Jersey residency for purposes of N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2 commences when a student is granted permanent resident status in the United States.

(b) (No change.)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve Resolution 02:20 Adopting Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Grant and Scholarship Programs, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2, 9A:9-10 and 9A:9-11.

Attachments

RULE PROPOSALS

INTERESTED PERSONS

Interested persons may submit comments, information or arguments concerning any of the rule proposals in this issue until the date indicated in the proposal. Submissions and any inquiries about submissions should be addressed to the agency officer specified for a particular proposal.

The required minimum period for comment concerning a proposal is 30 days. A proposing agency may extend the 30-day comment period to accommodate public hearings or to elicit greater public response to a proposed new rule or amendment. Most notices of proposal include a 60-day comment period, in order to qualify the notice for an exception to the rulemaking calendar requirements of N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3. An extended comment deadline will be noted in the heading of a proposal or appear in subsequent notice in the Register.

At the close of the period for comments, the proposing agency may thereafter adopt a proposal, without change, or with changes not in violation of the rulemaking procedures at N.J.A.C. 1:30-6.3. The adoption becomes effective upon publication in the Register of a notice of adoption, unless otherwise indicated in the adoption notice. Promulgation in the New Jersey Register establishes a new or amended rule as an official part of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

HIGHER EDUCATION

(a)

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Grant and Scholarship Programs

Proposed Repeal and New Rule: N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.13

Proposed Amendments: N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.1 through 2.5, 2.7, 2.10, 2.11, 10.1, 10.2, 10.4, 11.1, 11.2, 11.5, and 11.7

Authorized By: Higher Education Student Assistance Authority,
Christy Van Horn, Chairperson.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-1 et seq., 18A:71B-1 et seq., 18A:71B-12, 18A:71B-19, 18A:71B-20, 18A:71B-23.7, 18A:71B-86, 18A:71B-86.6; and P.L. 2017, c. 360, P.L. 2018, c. 12, and P.L. 2018, c. 144.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Proposal Number: PRN 2019-133.

Submit written comments by November 15, 2019, to:

Marnie B. Grodman, Esquire
Administrative Practice Officer
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
PO Box 545
Trenton, NJ 08625-0545
Email: Regulations@hesaa.org

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-1 et seq., the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority ("HESAA" or "Authority") is statutorily responsible for the administration of State scholarship and tuition aid programs and for the promulgation of all rules to that effect. The proposed amendments are designed to implement P.L. 2017, c. 360; P.L. 2018, c. 12; and P.L. 2018, c. 144. P.L. 2017, c. 360 created part-time eligibility for students receiving NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarships who need to take fewer credits due to either a health condition or the death of a parent or spouse. P.L. 2018, c. 12 extended eligibility for State student financial assistance program to New Jersey Dreamers, who had not previously been eligible for assistance. P.L. 2018, c. 144 created three plus one degree programs, which provide students with the opportunity to attend a county college for their third academic year of study before transferring to a four-year institution. The chapter law provides for additional student financial aid at the county college for students enrolled in their third year of a three plus one degree program. In addition, the proposed amendments are

intended to clarify and strengthen eligibility requirements for State student financial assistance programs. The proposed amendments strengthen the requirements by adding criteria to the definition of an eligible institution requiring schools to provide students with a "shopping sheet" so students can compare the costs of selected schools. The proposed amendments clarify eligibility requirements by adding a subsection to specify the documentation needed to verify compliance with the Military Selective Service Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3801 et seq., as well as by specifying the documentation required to verify the student's and their parents' income. The proposed amendments also update application procedures due to the implementation of a new online grants servicing system and replace the existing table displaying the maximum number of semester award payments students may receive, substituting a reformatted chart that has been streamlined to ease comprehension.

The proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.1(a) adds a reference to part-time enrollment to clarify that some existing student assistance programs permit part-time enrollment and to implement the extension of NJ STARS and NJ STARS II eligibility to part-time students authorized by P.L. 2017, c. 360.

N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.1(b)5 is proposed for amendment to add new subparagraph (b)5ii to revise the definition of an eligible institution. As authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-1, the Authority is proposing to restrict the definition of an eligible institution to those that provide students with a shopping sheet providing a financial comparison of selected schools and transparency on the net costs of attendance after the application of grants and scholarships, loan options, and the estimated debt that the student will incur to attend the institution. This amendment assists students in making an informed decision about where to enroll and invest both their personal funds and the financial assistance the State expends on their behalf.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2(e) and 2.3(b) implement P.L. 2018, c. 12, which provides that students who are other than a non-immigrant alien, within the meaning of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15), are eligible for State financial aid if they have attended a New Jersey high school for at least three years, and graduated from a New Jersey high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma from New Jersey; and, in the case of a person without lawful immigration status who meets these requirements, either filed an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2(f) provides that students who meet all the requirements of proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2(e) will be referred to as "New Jersey Dreamers" for purposes of State student financial assistance.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.4(d) specifies the documentation required by N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-6 to verify compliance with the Military Selective Service Act. For students who use the Federally supplied application for financial aid, the proposed amendment provides that the verification requirement is satisfied under the Federal Higher Education

Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1001 et seq. For students who do not use the Federally supplied application for financial aid, the proposed amendment requires a copy of the student's Selective Service Registration Card or a letter from the Federal government confirming registration with Selective Service to verify compliance. As it can take up to 90 days for a student to receive proof of Selective Service Registration in the mail, for a student's first semester of enrollment only, the proposed amendment permits schools to accept proof that the student mailed the registration form to the Selective Service System.

The Authority has implemented a new grant servicing system that has made the paper Student Eligibility Notice obsolete. Therefore, amendments are proposed to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.5 to delete reference to the Student Eligibility Notice and to advise students that the Authority will provide all notifications regarding eligibility in writing, either electronically or by mail.

The proposed amendments to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.7 are intended to provide clarification as to how the Authority verifies a student's income. The proposed amendments specify that, if the student, or the student's family, if applicable, does not file tax returns, the student must provide documented proof from a Federal or State agency of taxable and/or untaxed income, including, but not limited to, IRS tax and wage transcripts, receipt of unemployment payments, child support, alimony, welfare payments, Social Security benefits, or at least two benefits from any of the following Federal programs: Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, TANF, or WIC.

The proposed amendment to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.10 adds language to recognize that schools need to verify part-time enrollment for students receiving student financial assistance through a part-time program.

In order to implement the three plus one degree programs authorized by P.L. 2018, c. 144, the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.11(a)1 provide that students enrolled in a three plus one degree program are eligible for six semesters of Tuition Aid Grant payments at a two-year college, and 10 semesters of payments, including payments made for a two-year program, at a four-year college. The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.11(a)2 provide that for all other State student assistance programs not otherwise defined by rule, students enrolled in a three plus one degree program are eligible for six semesters of payments at a two-year college, and eight semesters of payment, including payments made for a two-year program, at a four-year college. In addition, the proposed amendments to both N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.11(a)1 and 2 replace the existing tables displaying the maximum number of semester award payments students may receive with reformatted tables that are streamlined to ease comprehension and at paragraph (a)1, footnote 1 is replaced and footnote 3 is deleted and at paragraph (a)2, new footnote 2 is added.

With the implementation of a new grants and scholarships servicing system, the obligations of students have changed. The proposed repeal and replacement of N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.13 deletes reference to the obsolete Student Eligibility Notice and adds the requirement for students to log on to the New Jersey Financial Aid Management System to ensure that their files are complete and accurate. In addition, students are no longer required to report changes in college choice or family financial status to the Authority. With the former paper process, the Student Eligibility Notice only provided the award amount for a student's top school choice. With the new online process, the system can show the student estimated award amounts for multiple schools. The student's actual award amount is determined when a school certifies the student's attendance at that institution. Students do not report changes in family financial status to the Authority because, beginning with the 2017-18 academic year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the application students file to receive Federal and State aid, began relying on prior-prior year tax information. This means that the 2017-2018 FAFSA relied on tax year 2015 income information. Prior to this change, students only reported changes in finances to HESAA if their family had not yet filed their taxes. Since taxes are now required to be filed before the FAFSA is available, the only changes to family finances are due to a change of circumstances, which is reported to the school, not to HESAA. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.13 requires students to report any changes to family financial status to the institution, which then exercises professional judgment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-3.3 to determine if there is a change in the student's eligibility for State student assistance programs.

The proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.1 is intended to implement P.L. 2017, c. 360, by acknowledging that there is an authorized exemption to the full-time enrollment requirement for NJ STARS eligibility.

To implement P.L. 2018, c. 144, the proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.2 revises the definition of "full-time enrollment" to include a course of study in the third academic year that leads to a degree at the four-year institution with which the county college is partnered in the three plus one program. The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.2 also implement P.L. 2017, c. 360, by adding a definition for part-time enrollment. Part-time enrollment is defined as a course of study including at least six, but less than 12, credit hours.

Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(a)1 and 7 provide for a sixth semester of NJ STARS eligibility for students enrolled in a three plus one degree program.

To implement P.L. 2017, c. 360, the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(a)6 reformat the paragraph into multiple subparagraphs and adds a new subparagraph. The exception to the continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study requirement for students on medical leave is codified as N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(a)6i; the exception to the continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study requirement for students called to mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is codified as N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(a)6ii; the new exception to the continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study requirement authorized by P.L. 2017, c. 360, for students enrolled part-time due to illness or the death of a parent or spouse is added as new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(a)6iii; and the exception to the continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study requirement for students enrolled part-time during the summer semester is codified as N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(a)6iv.

New N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(e) is proposed to implement section 2 of P.L. 2017, c. 360, by providing an additional semester of NJ STARS eligibility for each semester the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement, not to exceed five additional semesters.

The proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.1, is intended to implement P.L. 2017, c. 360, by acknowledging that there is an authorized exemption to the full-time enrollment requirement for NJ STARS II eligibility.

The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.2 revise the definitions of third academic year of study and fourth academic year of study to provide that, for students enrolled in a three plus one degree program pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, the third academic year of study is completed at the county college and the fourth academic year of study means the first and second eligible terms of study at a participating four-year institution of higher education. In addition, the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.2 implement P.L. 2017, c. 360, by adding a definition for part-time enrollment. The definition for part-time enrollment is a course of study that includes at least six, but less than twelve, credit hours.

Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a) provide that for students enrolled in a three plus one degree program, NJ STARS II eligibility is limited to three semesters. Additionally, proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)2i and new (a)2ii require students enrolled in a three plus one degree program, pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, to have been a funded or non-funded NJ STARS scholar in the sixth semester of county college enrollment to be eligible for NJ STARS II.

The proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)3 implements P.L. 2017, c. 360, by acknowledging that there is an authorized exemption to the full-time enrollment requirement for NJ STARS II eligibility.

To implement P.L. 2017, c. 360, the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)5 reformat the paragraph into multiple subparagraphs and add a new subparagraph. Pursuant to the proposed amendments, the exception to the continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study requirement for students on medical leave is codified as N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)5i; the exception to the continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study requirement for students called to mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is codified as N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)5ii; and the new exception to the continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study requirement authorized by P.L.

2017, c. 360, for students enrolled part-time due to illness or the death of a parent or spouse is added as new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)5iii.

New N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(b) is proposed to implement section 3.h of P.L. 2017, c. 360, by providing an additional semester of NJ STARS II eligibility for each semester the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement, not to exceed four additional semesters.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.7(a)1 implements P.L. 2017, c. 360, by providing that part-time scholarships under NJ STARS II are prorated against the full-time NJ STARS II award and that the total NJ STARS II payments shall not exceed \$5,000 for a student.

As the Authority has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Social Impact

Except as noted below, the Authority does not anticipate any social impact from the proposed amendments implementing P.L. 2017, c. 360, creating part-time eligibility for the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II programs, P.L. 2018, c. 12, extending eligibility for State student financial assistance program to New Jersey Dreamers, or P.L. 2018, c. 144, beyond that which results from the statutory requirements.

The proposed amendments are expected to have a positive social impact on students applying for State financial aid. The proposed amendments that streamline application processes will make it easier for students to apply for aid, as well as to understand the amount of aid they are receiving.

The proposed amendments implementing P.L. 2017, c. 360, will have a positive impact on students with health issues or dealing with the loss of a parent or spouse by permitting these students to take advantage of the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarships they earned on a part-time basis.

The proposed amendments implementing P.L. 2018, c. 12, are expected to improve opportunities for New Jersey Dreamers, who came to New Jersey as children, benefitted from a New Jersey high school education, and can contribute to New Jersey's economy by pursuing postsecondary education. By extending financial aid eligibility to New Jersey Dreamers, these proposed amendments make higher education accessible for these New Jersey students who could not previously afford to attend college.

The proposed amendments implementing P.L. 2018, c. 144, are also expected to make higher education more affordable for New Jersey students. These proposed amendments encourage students to enroll in three plus one degree programs by providing additional financial aid for the third year of enrollment at a county college. As it is less expensive to attend county college than a four-year institution, the students enrolled in a three plus one degree program will save money for their third year of college.

Additionally, the proposed amendments to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.1 are expected to positively impact students by incentivizing institutions to provide students with shopping sheets that will provide the transparency on college costs that students need when selecting which institution to attend.

Economic Impact

The proposed amendments implement statutory requirements and the Authority does not anticipate any economic impact from the proposed amendments beyond that which result from the statutory requirements.

There will be an indeterminate cost related to the proposed amendments to implement P.L. 2017, c. 360, based on the number of students who enroll part-time in NJ STARS. For academic year 2018-19, an average of 28 students enrolled part-time in NJ STARS per semester and no students enrolled part-time in NJ STARS II. The students who enrolled part-time in NJ STARS are eligible for another full-time semester for each part-time semester in which they are enrolled, not to exceed five additional semesters. If the same number of students enroll in NJ STARS part-time each semester, based on the average part-time NJ STARS award of \$1,007 per semester, and if each student enrolls full-time for each additional semester, the additional cost to the State per year will be \$56,392. There will be no increased cost to the State if students enroll

part-time in NJ STARS II, as the total NJ STARS II award for all students, whether attending full-time or part-time, is capped at \$5,000 per student.

The fiscal impact of the proposed amendment to implement P.L. 2018, c. 12, extending State student financial assistance programs to New Jersey Dreamers, was initially projected to cost approximately \$4 million for a full academic year. The actual cost for the fall 2019 semester was \$1.625 million.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendments to implement P.L. 2018, c. 144, will save the State money. Students enrolled in a three plus one degree program will be attending county college for their third year of attendance and will be receiving student financial assistance at the county college level instead of the four-year institution amounts. The highest average Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) award to the neediest students at county colleges for academic year 2018-19 was \$2,786 and the highest average award to the neediest students at a four-year institution for academic year 2018-19 was \$12,938. The State will realize a TAG award savings of up to \$10,152 for each student who enrolls in a three plus one degree program for the third academic year of study. The total savings to the State is indeterminate, based on the number of students who take part in the three plus one degree programs and the level of TAG award for which they are eligible.

Federal Standards Statement

A Federal standards analysis is not required because the proposed amendments are not being proposed in order to implement, comply with, or participate in any program established under Federal law or under a State law that incorporates or refers to Federal law, standards, or requirements.

Jobs Impact

The proposed amendments will not result in the loss or generation of jobs. The proposed amendments affect the criteria for student eligibility for the State's grant and scholarship programs, and to provide further clarity to the existing rules. These programs provide financial assistance opportunities to students and their families to help them meet their higher education expenses, which are a major concern for many New Jersey residents. It is anticipated that they will also increase students' access to higher paying jobs.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The proposed amendments will have no impact on the agriculture industry. The proposed amendments impact institutions of higher education and the students that attend these institutions.

Regulatory Flexibility Statement

A regulatory flexibility analysis is not required because the proposed amendments do not impose reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements on small businesses as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. The Authority does not anticipate that any educational institution participating in these programs would be covered by the definition of a small business because these entities have over 100 full-time employees. Additionally, students participating in these programs are not covered by the definition because they are individuals, not businesses.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

The proposed amendments will have an insignificant impact on the affordability of housing in New Jersey. There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments would evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing. The proposed amendments affect the administration of grants and scholarships for higher education, which has no impact on housing.

Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis

The proposed amendments will have an insignificant impact on smart growth and there is an extreme unlikelihood that the rules would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey. The proposed amendments affect the administration of grants and scholarships for higher education, which has no impact on housing production.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact

The Authority has evaluated this rulemaking and determined that it will not have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning adults and juveniles in the State. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

Full text of the proposal follows (additions indicated in boldface thus; deletion indicated in brackets [thus]):

SUBCHAPTER 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TUITION AID GRANT AND GARDEN STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

9A:9-2.1 Undergraduate enrollment and eligible institutions

(a) Students must have received a high school diploma or recognized equivalent of a high school diploma as defined by 34 CFR 600.2 and be enrolled or plan to be enrolled as full-time undergraduate students matriculated in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an eligible institution as defined in (b) through (d) below in order to be eligible for student assistance, **unless the specific student assistance program permits part-time enrollment.** Students possessing an undergraduate degree (either a Baccalaureate or Associate degree) are not eligible for student assistance at that degree level. Certification of full-time status is the responsibility of the enrolling institution based on the current institutional definition of full-time status and subject to review and approval by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (Authority).

(b) An eligible institution means an institution of higher education that:

1.-4. (No change.)

5. Upon commencing participation in the State financial aid programs[, annually]:

i. Annually provides the Authority with detailed information on the graduation rates of State Tuition Aid Grant recipients and, in the case of county colleges, provides information on the transfer rates of State Tuition Aid Grant recipients, in the format provided by the Authority[.]; and

ii. Beginning with academic year 2020-2021, provides a financial aid shopping sheet, in the format prescribed by the Authority, to each prospective and returning student as part of the financial aid offer to provide students and their families with clear information on the net costs of attendance after application of grants and scholarships, loan options, and estimated debt that the student will incur to attend the institution.

(c)-(d) (No change.)

9A:9-2.2 Residency

(a)-(d) (No change.)

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a) and (b) above, a student is eligible for aid if the student:

1. Attended high school in New Jersey for at least three years;

2. Graduated from a high school in New Jersey or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in New Jersey;

3. Is not attending an institution in New Jersey solely for the purpose of receiving State student financial aid; and

4. In the case of a person without lawful immigration status, files an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

(f) Students who meet the requirements of (e) above, shall be referred to as New Jersey Dreamers, for purposes of State student financial assistance.

[(e)] (g) (No change in text.)

9A:9-2.3 Noncitizens and resident aliens

(a) In order to receive a grant or scholarship, a noncitizen of the United States of America or resident alien must present affirmative evidence that he or she is not in the United States for the temporary purpose of obtaining an education. Acceptable affirmative evidence is delineated annually by the United States Department of Education in the Federal Student Aid Handbook published at <http://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/byAwardYear.jsp?type=fshandbook>. The acceptable affirmative evidence standards set forth in

Volume 1, Chapter 2, Citizenship, of the 2013-2014 Federal Student Aid Handbook, which is incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented. For a noncitizen of the United States of America, or resident alien, legal New Jersey residency for purposes of N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2 commences when a student is granted permanent resident status in the United States.

(b) In order to receive a grant or scholarship, a student other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15) shall:

1. Have attended a New Jersey high school for at least three years;

2. Have graduated from a New Jersey high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma from New Jersey; and

3. In the case of a person without lawful immigration status, filed an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating either that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or that the student will file an application to legalize his or her immigration status as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

9A:9-2.4 Eligibility and repayments

(a)-(c) (No change.)

(d) Students subject to the provisions of the Military Selective Service Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3801 et seq., shall not receive State financial assistance under the programs administered by the Authority without verification of compliance with the requirements of the Military Selective Service Act. Verification of compliance shall be satisfied as follows:

1. For students who apply using a Federally supplied application for financial aid, verification of military selective service compliance provided under the Federal Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq., satisfies this requirement;

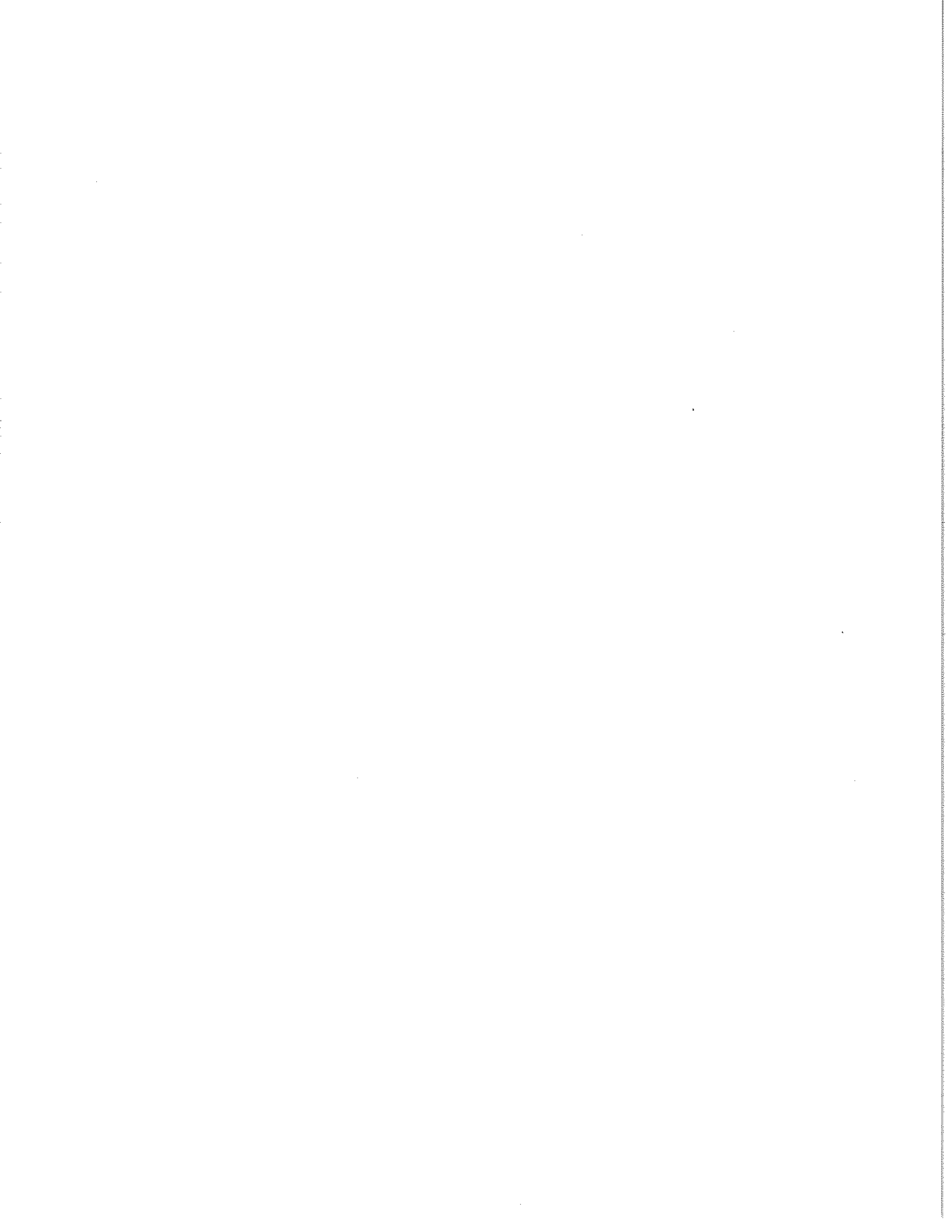
2. For students who apply using a non-Federally supplied application for financial aid, the institution of higher education shall not disburse the aid until provided a copy of the student's Selective Service Registration Card or a letter from the Federal government confirming registration with Selective Service. For students in their first semester of enrollment only, institutions are permitted to accept proof that the student mailed his registration to the Selective Service System, including, but not limited to, a registered mail receipt or a commercial carrier tracking notice. For future semesters of eligibility, the student must provide a copy of the Selective Service Registration Card or letter from the Federal government confirming registration with Selective Service.

9A:9-2.5 Student notification

[Students shall be notified] The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall notify students of grant eligibility [through the Student Eligibility Notice issued by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority] in writing, either electronically or by mail. The amount of the grant is subject to change based on the annual level of appropriations and other resources available to the student (see N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.9). The institution's written notification to the student regarding State financial assistance shall contain a clause indicating the State is not responsible for funding of the grant in the event of fraudulent, inaccurate, or misleading information.

9A:9-2.7 Verification of family financial data

Students upon request must provide the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority with documentation including, but not limited to, Internal Revenue Service tax return transcripts and/or State income tax returns for themselves, and in the case of dependent students, for their parents, for verification purposes. In the limited circumstances when students or parents are unable to obtain transcripts from the Internal Revenue Service, the Authority may accept a signed copy of the Federal income tax return. If no tax returns were filed for the year requested, students must provide the Authority with documented proof, received through a Federal or State agency, of taxable and/or untaxed income, including, but not limited to, an IRS tax and wage transcript, receipt of unemployment payments, child support, alimony, welfare payments, Social Security benefits, or at least two benefits from any of the following Federal programs: Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, TANF, or WIC. Financial data provided on the financial aid form may be verified



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by the Authority and/or institution through the comparison of information reported on income tax transcripts and returns and other requested documentation. Discrepancies will require the re-evaluation of the student's eligibility. Students, as well as institutions, will be notified if an adjustment in the value of aid is required. If documentation is not received to verify income or resolve discrepancies aid will not be granted.

9A:9-2.10 Verification of enrollment and academic performance

(a) Before payment may be made to an eligible student, the institution shall have satisfactory evidence that the student is eligible for State grant and/or scholarship assistance, has registered as a full-time student for an academic term in an eligible program of study, or a minimum of six credits if the student is applying for an approved part-time financial aid program in an eligible program of study, and that the student is meeting minimum standards for academic performance and academic progress.

(b)-(f) (No change.)

9A:9-2.11 Payments

(a) The maximum number of semester award payments that students may receive are as follows:

1. Tuition Aid Grant Program:[

	<u>Enrollment Status</u>	Maximum Semesters for <u>Award Payments</u>
TWO-YEAR COLLEGES:	Regular 2-Year Program	5
	Remedial/Developmental or Bilingual (ESL) Curriculum EOF Program	6
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES	Regular 4-Year Program	6/8 ¹
	County College Transfers/ Remedial/Developmental/Bilingual Curriculum	9
	5-Year Program EOF Program	10 ²
		11/12 ³
		12 ¹

<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>2-Year College Maximum Semesters</u>	<u>4-Year College Maximum Semesters¹</u>
Regular program	5	9
Remedial/Developmental or Bilingual (ESL) Curriculum ²	6	10
EOF Program	8	12
Three Plus One Degree Program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144	6	10
County college transfer	N/A	10
5-year program	N/A	11
5-year county college transfer, Remedial/Developmental or Bilingual curriculum	N/A	12

[¹ As stipulated in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.8.]

¹The semesters of payment are cumulative and include all payments made for a two-year program.

² (No change.)

[³ County College Transfer, Remedial/Developmental or Bilingual (ESL) curriculum.

i. Students shall not receive more than nine semesters of payment unless they are enrolled in a five-year program, receiving assistance under the EOF Program, transferred from a county college to a four-year college or were required to take the equivalent of 18 or more credit hours of noncredit remedial, developmental, or bilingual (ESL) courses.

ii. Students enrolled in an undergraduate program regularly requiring five academic years for completion shall be permitted five and one-half years of payment eligibility.

iii. Students enrolled in the EOF Program may receive additional payments based upon the special approval from the Executive Director of the EOF Program.]

2. [All] Other State Student Assistance Programs, [except NJ STARS and NJ STARS II] if not separately defined by rule:[

	<u>Enrollment Status</u>	Maximum Semesters for Award Payments
TWO-YEAR COLLEGES:	Regular 2-Year Program	5
	Remedial/Developmental or Bilingual (ESL)	6
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES	Regular 4-Year Program	8 ¹
	Regular 5-Year Program	10 ¹

<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>2-Year College Maximum Semesters</u>	<u>4-Year College Maximum Semesters¹</u>
Regular program	5	8
Three Plus One Degree Program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144	6	8
Remedial/Developmental or Bilingual (ESL) Curriculum ²	6	8
5-year program	N/A	10

¹ (No change.)

² Remedial/Developmental or Bilingual (ESL) Curriculum must contain the equivalent of 18 or more credit hours of remedial or bilingual (ESL) courses.

(b) (No change.)

9A:9-2.13 Student's obligation to report changes in institution or financial status

Any changes in college choice or family financial status which occur after the Student Eligibility Notice has been issued to the student must be reported immediately, in writing by the student, to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority in order that the student's continued eligibility may be evaluated and prompt payment provided. Institutions may report these changes on behalf of the student.]

9A:9-2.13 Student's obligation

Students are required to log onto the New Jersey Financial Aid Management System and ensure that their file is complete and accurate. Any changes to family financial status must be reported to the institution, which shall exercise professional judgment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-3.3 to determine if there is a change in the student's eligibility for State student assistance programs.

SUBCHAPTER 10. NEW JERSEY STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE REWARD SCHOLARSHIP (NJ STARS) PROGRAM

9A:9-10.1 Purpose and scope

The rules established by this subchapter provide the policies and the procedures for participation in the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program administered by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (Authority). These scholarships shall be awarded annually to eligible students enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey county college, unless the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4(a)giii.

9A:9-10.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

... "Full-time enrollment" in any semester, including summer, means a course of study leading to a degree from the county college of enrollment, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, in which case the course of study in the third academic year shall lead to a degree at the four-year institution with which the county college is partnered in the three plus one degree program, that includes at least 12 credit hours, not including any credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum. Full-time enrollment for a summer semester consists of the total number of credits taken during all sessions in that summer.

... "Part-time enrollment" in any semester, including summer, means a course of study leading to a degree from the county college of enrollment, that includes at least six credit hours, but less than 12 credit hours, not including any credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum. Part-time enrollment for a summer semester consists of the total number of credits taken during all sessions in that summer.

9A:9-10.4 Eligibility requirements

(a) A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for up to five semesters, including summers, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, in which case the student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for up to six semesters, including summers. This period of eligibility also includes any semester for which a student qualifies for the scholarship but does not receive payment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.7. In order to qualify for this scholarship, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. (No change.)
2. Upon notice from the Authority of conditional eligibility for the Program, a student shall take a college placement test selected by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and administered by the county college in the county of the student's school district at no cost to the student or the school district. The county colleges may enter into an agreement with the school district to administer the test at the high school or other selected site within the district.
 - i. (No change.)
 - ii. A student shall have one year from September 1 following high school graduation to demonstrate the skill levels required to pursue courses for credit at a county college. The student shall become an NJ STAR scholar eligible for five, or six if enrolled in a three plus one program, semesters of NJ STARS scholarships if during or at the end of the one-year period the student demonstrates the required ability. A student loses eligibility to become an NJ STARS Scholar if the student continues to require remediation at the end of the one-year period;
- 3.-5. (No change.)
6. A student must maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study unless:
 - i. The student is on medical leave due to the illness of the student or illness of a member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been approved by the county college prior to completion of the semester for which leave is being granted [or unless];
 - ii. The student is called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States[.];
 - iii. The student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement by enrolling part-time and:
 - (1) Provides the county college with a written note from a physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental health condition; or

(2) Provides the county college with documentation to verify the death of the student's parent or spouse in the current or previous semester. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to, a copy of the obituary listing the student as the child or spouse, or a copy of the death certificate along with a copy of the birth certificate or marriage certificate;

iv. A student enrolled for less than full-time status during the summer semester shall not receive an NJ STARS award for that semester, unless the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant to (a)6iii above, but shall maintain eligibility for the program[.]; or

[i.] v. (No change in text.)

7. A student shall not receive an NJ STARS scholarship for the sixth semester of county college enrollment, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, but if a student enrolled in a nursing or engineering program enrolls for a sixth semester that student shall maintain eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program, established pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 359 (N.J.S.A. 18A:17B-86.1 et seq.), provided the student meets the requirements for receipt of an NJ STARS II scholarship and graduates after the sixth semester.

(b)-(d) (No change.)

(e) A student enrolled part-time pursuant to (a)6iii above shall receive an additional semester of NJ STARS eligibility for each semester the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement, not to exceed five additional semesters.

SUBCHAPTER 11. NEW JERSEY STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE REWARD SCHOLARSHIP II (NJ STARS II) PROGRAM

9A:9-11.1 Purpose and scope

The rules established by this subchapter provide the policies and procedures for participation in the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. This program offers scholarships to NJ STARS scholars who attain an associate degree at a New Jersey county college and are enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey four-year institution of higher education no later than the second eligible term immediately following the student's attainment of an associate degree, unless the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)5iii.

9A:9-11.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

... "Fourth academic year of study" means the third and fourth eligible terms of study at a participating institution, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, in which case the fourth academic year of study means the first and second eligible terms of study at a participating four-year institution.

... "Part-time enrollment" in any semester means a course of study in any term, except summer sessions, that includes at least six credit hours, but less than 12 credit hours, in a non-remedial or non-developmental curriculum and which leads to a baccalaureate degree from a participating institution.

... "Third academic year of study" means the first two eligible terms of study at a participating institution, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, in which case the student completed the third academic year of study at the county college.

9A:9-11.5 Eligibility requirements

(a) A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program for up to four terms, unless the student is enrolled in a three

plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, in which case the student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program for up to three terms. Payments are only made for fall and spring terms. The student's eligibility will be determined during the first eligible term of enrollment at a participating institution. In order to qualify for this scholarship, a student must:

1. (No change.)
2. Have graduated from a New Jersey county college with an associate degree as a funded or non-funded NJ STARS scholar with at least a 3.25 cumulative grade point average or was eligible for but did not receive an NJ STARS scholarship because the student was enrolled in college courses while in high school and received an associates degree with at least a 3.25 cumulative grade point average in accordance with a joint program offered by the student's school district and a county college.

i. Students who were not enrolled in a three plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144, and were NJ STARS scholars for their fifth semester of county college enrollment and enrolled in a sixth semester at the county college in a nursing or engineering program are eligible for NJ STARS II, provided they meet the requirements for receipt of an NJ STARS II scholarship and graduate after the sixth semester[.].

ii. Students who were enrolled in a three plus one degree program established pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 144 must have been a funded or non-funded NJ STARS scholar in the sixth semester of county college enrollment to be eligible for NJ STARS II;

3. Be enrolled full-time, or part-time if the student received an exemption from the full-time course requirement pursuant to (a)5iii below, in a baccalaureate degree program at a participating institution no later than the second eligible term immediately following the student's attainment of an associate degree, unless enrollment is delayed due to the illness of the student or a member of the student's immediate family or because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency exception shall have been approved by the Authority, or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States;

4. (No change.)
5. Maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study at a participating institution unless:

i. The student is on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a member of the student's immediate family or on emergency leave because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been approved by the participating institution prior to completion of the term for which leave is being granted; [or unless]

ii. The student is called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States[.];

iii. The student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement by enrolling part-time and:

(1) Provides the participating institution with a written note from a physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental health condition; or

(2) Provides the participating institution with documentation to verify the death of the student's parent or spouse in the current or previous semester. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to, a copy of the obituary listing the student as the child or spouse, or a copy of the death certificate along with a copy of the birth certificate or marriage certificate.

(b) A student enrolled part-time pursuant to (a)5iii above shall receive an additional semester of NJ STARS II eligibility for each semester the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of student requirement, not to exceed four additional semesters.

[(b)] (c) (No change in text.)

9A:9-11.7 Amount of the scholarship

(a) A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be applied toward the cost of tuition, or in the case of a student who receives a Tuition Aid Grant, toward the cost of tuition and approved fees, subject to the prior application of other State and Federal grants and scholarships against

such costs for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of study at a participating institution. A scholarship shall be paid to the participating institution an amount up to \$1,250 per term. The cost of the scholarship shall be paid 100 percent by the State.

1. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program for students enrolled part-time shall be prorated against the full time NJ STARS II awards as follows:

- i. An eligible student enrolled for six to eight credits shall receive one-half of the value of the full-time award;
- ii. An eligible student enrolled for nine to 11 credits shall receive three-quarters of the value of the full-time award; and
- iii. Total NJ STARS II payments shall not exceed \$5,000 for a student.

(b)-(c) (No change.)

PUBLIC UTILITIES

(a)

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Proposed Amendment: N.J.A.C. 14:8-2.4

Authorized By: New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Joseph L. Fiordaliso, President, Mary-Anna Holden, Dianne Solomon, Upendra J. Chivukula, and Robert M. Gordon, Commissioners.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 48:2-1 et seq., in particular 48:2-13, 48:3-51, and 48:3-87.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

BPU Docket Number: QX19060720.

Proposal Number: PRN 2019-134.

Comments may be submitted through November 15, 2019, by email in Microsoft Word format, or in a format that can be easily converted to Word, to rule.comments@bpu.nj.gov, or on paper to:

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary
 New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
 ATTN: BPU Docket Number: QX19060720
 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Floor, Suite 314
 PO Box 350
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Please take notice that the Board of Public utilities ("BPU" or "Board") recognizes that there may be market implications incident to the proposed 5.1 percent calculation methodology contained herein. The Board is committed to providing an open and transparent public dialogue, prior to the termination of the Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) registration program, on whether Board action is necessary to ensure that the solar market in New Jersey continues to remain healthy.

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

The Board is proposing amendments at N.J.A.C. 14:8-2.4 to conform the existing rules to certain provision of P.L. 2018, c. 17 ("Clean Energy Act" or "Act"). The Act made several changes to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to provide for an orderly and transparent mechanism that will result in the closing of the existing solar renewable energy certificate (SREC) Registration Program ("SREC Program" or "SRP") on a date certain but no later than June 1, 2021. Once it has determined that 5.1 percent of the kilowatt-hours sold in the State by each electric power supplier and each basic generation provider are generated by solar electric generation facilities connected to the distribution system (5.1% Milestone), the Board shall close the SREC Program. No later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Clean Energy Act, the Board must complete a study that evaluates how to modify or replace the SREC Program to encourage the continued efficient and orderly development of solar renewable energy generating sources throughout the State.

RESOLUTION 02:20

**ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE GRANT AND
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS,
N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2, 9A:9-10 AND 9A:9-11**

Moved by: Ms. Maria Torres

Seconded by: Dr. Jon Larson

WHEREAS: Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-1 et seq., the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is statutorily responsible for the administration of State scholarship and tuition aid programs and for the promulgation of all rules to that effect; and

WHEREAS: At its July 24, 2019 meeting the HESAA Board approved proposed regulatory amendments to implement P.L. 2017 c. 360; P.L. 2018 c. 12; and P.L. 2018 c. 144 as well as to clarify and strengthen eligibility requirements for State student financial assistance programs; and

WHEREAS: The proposed amendment, PRN 2019-133, was published in the September 16, 2019 New Jersey Register at 51 N.J.R. 1451, posted on the HESAA website at HESAA.org, and sent to the Statehouse News Media. In addition, secondary notice was emailed to interested parties and a press release was distributed to the news media; and

WHEREAS: The 60-day legislative review period for this rule expired on October 6, 2019, with no comments received; and

WHEREAS: The public comment period for this rule expired on November 15, 2019 with three comments received, requiring technical, not substantive changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE:

RESOLVED: That the Board approves Adopting Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Grant and Scholarship Programs, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2, 9A:9-10 and 9A:9-11.

January 22, 2020



HESAA Grants & Scholarships

NJFAMS improvements over
prior Mainframe system

Prior to NJFAMS



The Student View

- Previous Mainframe System

- NJFAMS

Fri Jan 17 2020 15:56:22 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)

NJ Grants & Scholarships for Academic Year 2016-17

Customer ID : [REDACTED]
SSN : [REDACTED]

Date of Birth : [REDACTED]

Initial FAFSA Date Received : 05/04/2016
Additional Info for State Aid : [Provided on 05/04/2016 08:00](#)
Your dependency status is: Dependent
The status of your file is: Complete

Please review your award status below.

[Award Status](#) [Notices](#)

Notices

Date we sent you the notice	Notice Sent To	Viewed By
05-18-2016	828 Beechwood Ave 1st Floor Cherry Hill, NJ 08002	Not Viewed Yet

[Print](#)

Welcome to NJFAMS!

Check your **To Do List** for additional information we need to process your grant or scholarship.

- To Do List
- View and Update Your School
- Apply Online for Scholarships
- Award and Eligibility Information
- Notifications
- View And Update Your Contact Information
- Edit Your Profile

Your FAFSA for academic year 2017-2018 has been received

The School and HESAA View

- Mainframe –
xchg/e/41a00code,41b00code,/089

```

*****HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION***** PAGE 4
6 -PARENTS' MARITAL STATUS-A- SINGLE 22 -NUMBER STD HOUSEHOLD -J- 01
7 -PAR STATE OF LEGAL RES -A- NJ 23 -STD NUMBER IN COLLEGE -J- 1
8 -DATE PARENTS' RES BEGAN-J- 12/2010 24K-SSA REJECT INDICATOR - -
8B-PAR RES BEFORE 1/1/11? -A- YES 24L-HS DIPLOMA OR EQUIV -A- HS DIPLMA
9 -NUMBER PAR HOUSEHOLD -A- 02 28A-PAR TAX FILING STATUS -A- HD HSLD
0 -PAR NUMBER IN COLLEGE -A- 1 28B-STU TAX FILING STATUS - -
1 -AGE OLDER PARENT -A- 57 28C-PAR MARITAL STATUS DATE - -
***** ASSET/EXPENSE INFORMATION ***** FED BENFTS: PARENT STUDENT
NET WORTH PARENTS STD/SPOUSE 49A-SSI - - 49F- -
1-CASH/SAVINGS A-A-$ 0000000 B-A-$ 0000000 B-SNAP - - G- -
2-INVESTMENTS A-A-$ 0000000 B-A-$ 0000000 C-FR/LU- - H- -
3-BUS/INV FARM A-A-$ 0000000 B-A-$ 0000000 D-TANF - - I- -
6-UNUSUAL EXP A- - B- - E-WIC - - J- -
** COLLEGE CHOICE ***** HESAA QUESTIONS & SIGNATURES *****
1A-1ST CHOICE -A- 002806 45A-PARENT 1'S SSN - -
B-2ND CHOICE - - D-P 1'S NAME- - 34B- -
C-3RD CHOICE - - F-PARENT 2'S SSN -A-
D-4TH CHOICE - - I-P 2'S NAME-A- DAVIS 34C-A- S
E-5TH CHOICE - - B-ASSOCIATE DEGREE? - -
F-6TH CHOICE - - C-STUDENT'S SIGNATURE -A- PRESENT
G-CURRENT COLL -J- 002806 E-PARENTS' SIGNATURE -A- PRESENT
S-SPRING COLL - - 34N-STD'S SPOUSE'S SSN - -
    
```

- NJFAMS

General Information DOB: 6/29/1999

Academic Period Information

[Add Campus](#)
[Add Program](#)
[Award Student](#)
[Override Student Award](#)
[Eligibility Override](#)

[Expand All](#)

▼ MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[Show Additional Campuses](#)

FAFSA Information Receipt Date: 12/3/2018

Verification Not Selected for State Verification

Document Tracking

Comments

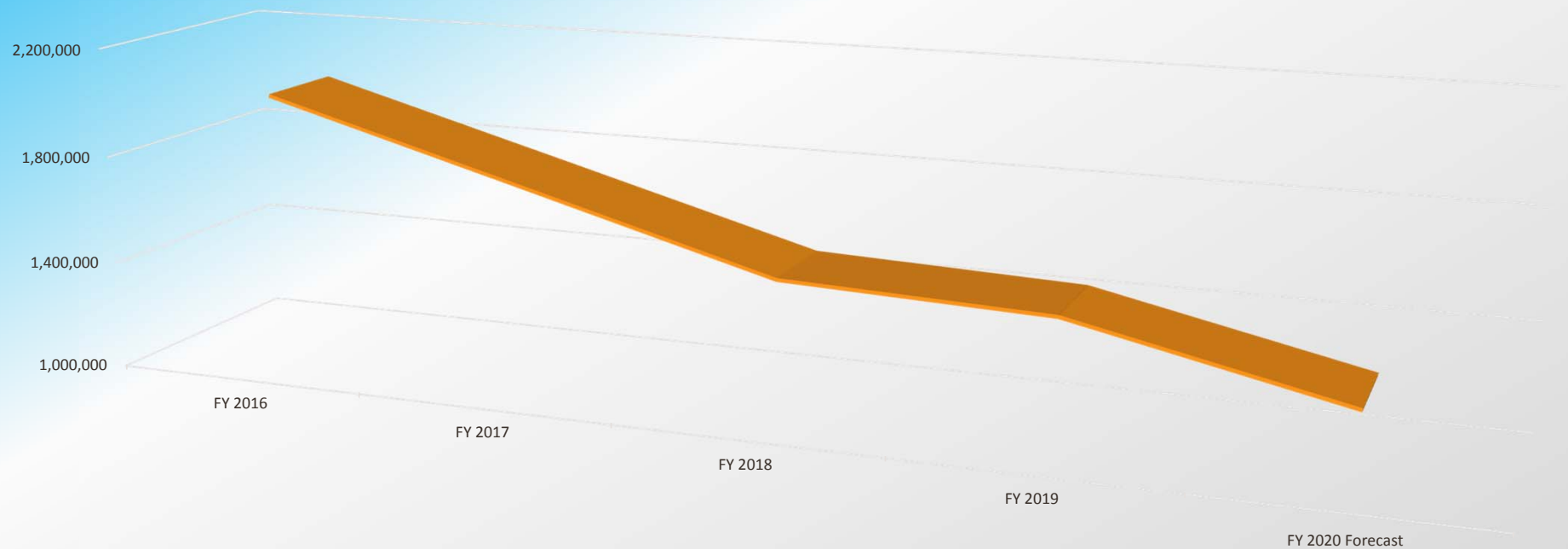
Payment History

Audit History

Notifications

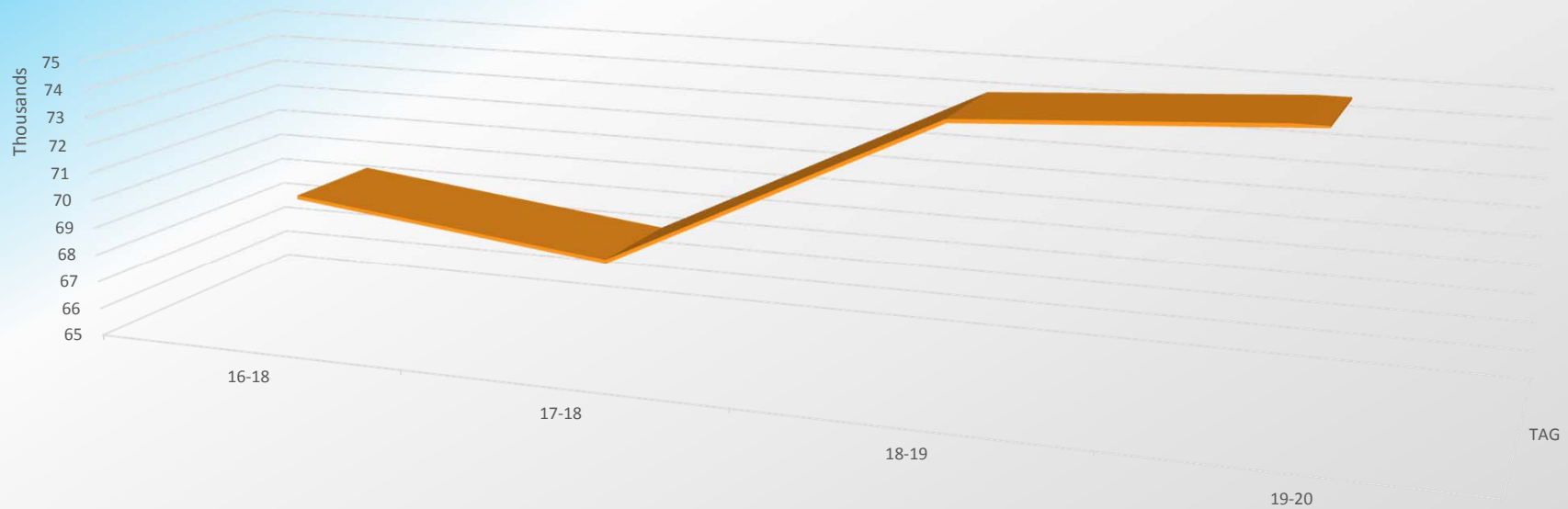
Default Information

NJFAMS Enables Efficiency and Admin. Savings



Grants and Scholarships processing costs, including staff overtime and temporary services contracts, were reduced from \$1.7m in 2016 to \$1.2m in 2020 (projected). Postage costs also dropped from \$256k to \$24k during that same timeframe. Total cost reductions have been \$732k over 4 years.

NJFAMS Capacity for Increased Volume



Other Grants & Scholarships

NJSTARS/STARS II

NJBEST

World Trade Center

NJ GIVS

LEOM

STB



Added Capability to Implement New Programs

- Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)
- NJ-STEP for incarcerated students
- Three-plus-one programs
- Dreamer students with integrated application

Enhanced Processing Functionalities

- 25,000 weekly student notices
- 60,000 FAFSA renewal notices
- Verification notifications daily
- We can run 2 years concurrently



Thank You!



HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY