

## **MDHEWD State Aid Eligibility Guidance 4.16.20**

In response to multiple school closures and alternative delivery methods as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development is issuing the following guidance for the state aid programs for 2019-2020 students and their ability to renew their awards for the 2020-2021 academic year. *This guidance is temporary and applies only to the 2019-2020 academic year.* For all other academic years, students will be required to meet each program's regular requirements. Additional guidance related specifically to the A+ program was previously provided.

### **Eligibility Verification Timeframe for All State Aid Programs**

MDHEWD policy requires institutions to verify a student's eligibility not more than 10 business days before requesting a student's payment. Funds must be delivered not more than 10 business days after that verification or eligibility must be re-confirmed before the payment request is made.

For the spring 2020 term, this verification period is being waived for students who have not yet been paid. Institutions may request funds for students who were eligible on the date the institution closed or began alternative delivery methods.

### **Full-Time Enrollment for Access Missouri, Bright Flight and Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant**

Although full-time enrollment is part of the eligibility verification waiver described above, clarification is required for students enrolled in 8-week sessions. For students enrolled in two 8-week sessions, MDHEWD policy requires institutions to wait until the second 8-week session has begun to request payment so they can ensure the student meets the 12 credit hour definition of full-time enrollment.

For the spring 2020 semester, students whose enrollment for both 8-week sessions meets the definition of full-time enrollment can be eligible, even if the institution closed or began alternative delivery methods before the second session began and the student does not attend classes for that session.

### **Fast Track Certification**

Total Hours Enrolled: The Total Hours Enrolled should reflect the number of hours in which the student was enrolled at the time the institution closed or changed to an alternative delivery method.

Tuition Calculation: For students who withdrew from any or all coursework after their institution closed or moved to an alternative delivery method, the number of hours on which the tuition is based should reflect the number of hours in which the student was enrolled at the time of the closure or change to another delivery method.

**2.5 Grade Point Average Accommodations for this requirement vary by program and are dependent on whether the requirement is statutory or regulatory. The department has latitude in making exceptions to regulatory requirements that is not available to us for statutory requirements.**

Access Missouri, Bright Flight, Fast Track, and Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant

These programs require students to maintain satisfactory academic progress by achieving a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average and, with the exception of GPA, meeting the school's other satisfactory academic progress requirements to renew the award. Although this definition of satisfactory academic progress is regulatory, the 2.5 cumulative grade point average requirement is set in statute for these programs. We are looking at whether options for accommodation may be available and will provide an update if viable options are identified.

A+, Marquerite Ross Barnett, Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program, and Kids' Chance

These programs require students to maintain satisfactory academic progress by achieving a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average and, with the exception of GPA, meeting the school's other satisfactory academic progress requirements to renew the award. Since this requirement is only regulatory for these programs, MDHEWD is making the following exception to this policy. To renew awards in the 2020-2021 academic year for these programs, students must only meet satisfactory academic progress as defined by the school. Students who meet the school's GPA requirement for satisfactory academic progress at the end of the spring 2020 term will be eligible to renew state aid awards for the 2020-2021 academic year, even if the school requires less than a 2.5 GPA.

Advanced Placement Incentive Grant

The Advanced Placement Incentive Grant is a one-time award with eligibility dependent upon a student's eligibility for either an Access Missouri or A+ scholarship award. Therefore, accommodation is provided through those underlying programs and is only necessary for students who receive the grant as a renewal Access Missouri or A+ recipient.

Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant

The Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant requires only that the student meet the institutional definition of satisfactory academic progress. No accommodation related to grade point average is required for this program.

The department will issue additional guidance if it becomes necessary as this situation unfolds. If you have any questions, please contact the following staff. At this time, email is the preferred method of communication.

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