

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Wednesday, September 27th 2017

DECISION ITEM B

Proposed Rules, Tennessee Middle College Scholarship

Staff Recommendation

(1) That the Tennessee Assistance Student Corporation adopt Rule 1640-1-29, Tennessee Middle College Scholarship, as proposed rules.

(2) That the TSAC Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to make any necessary technical corrections to these rules, including changes suggested by the Tennessee Attorney General.

Background

The proposed rule implements Public Acts of 2017, Chapter 405, the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship.

These rules will be implemented following approval by the Tennessee Attorney General and subsequent filing with the Secretary of State.

Supporting Document

Rules of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Chapter 1640-1-29, Tennessee Middle College Scholarship

**RULES
OF
TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION**

**CHAPTER 1640-01-29
TENNESSEE MIDDLE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

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1640-01-29-.01 INTRODUCTION.

- (1) These rules implement the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship Program authorized in T.C.A., Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9 as amended by 2017 Tennessee Public Acts, Chapter 405 (the Act). The Act provides scholarships to high school students who attend an eligible Middle College program beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year.

Authority: T.C.A §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.02 DEFINITIONS.

- (1) Full-time student: The term is defined in T.C.A § 49-4-902.
- (2) Grade point average: The grade point average used to determine eligibility as determined by the high school.
- (3) Middle College: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.
- (4) Semester: Fall and spring semesters, but excluding summer semesters.
- (5) TSAC: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.03 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNT.

- (1) The Middle College scholarship provides financial assistance to offset educational expenses for high school juniors and seniors who are pursuing an associate degree at an eligible Middle College.
- (2) The award amount for the program shall be determined in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-4-909 and shall be set in the General Appropriations Act.
- (3) The receipt of the Middle College scholarship is contingent upon admission to and enrollment in an eligible Middle College program.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, 49-4-914, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.04 APPLICATION PROCESS.

(Rule 1640-01-29-.04, continued)

- (1) Students participating in the Middle College Scholarship Program shall complete an annual application no later than September 1 for each academic year. If the deadline occurs on a weekend or holiday, then the application deadline will be the next business day.
- (2) The Middle College scholarship application shall serve as the only application. No additional application shall be required.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.05 ELIGIBILITY.

- (1) To be eligible for the Middle College Scholarship a student shall meet the requirements of T.C.A. § 49-4-909(a).
- (2) To continue to be eligible for the Middle College Scholarship, a student shall meet the requirements of T.C.A § 49-4-909(b).

Authority T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.06 TERMINATING EVENTS.

- (1) A student may receive the Middle College Scholarship until reaching a terminating event as described in T.C.A. § 49-4-909(c).

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204 and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.07 CERTIFICATION.

- (1) Each eligible Middle College shall be responsible for certifying to TSAC that the student has met all eligibility requirements.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.08 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.

- (1) Scholarship funds shall be disbursed to each eligible Middle College on behalf of students eligible for and enrolled in the program.
- (2) In no case shall funds be disbursed directly to students.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.09 REFUNDS.

- (1) If a recipient of a Middle College scholarship fails to complete a semester for any reason, the eligible Middle College shall apply its refund policy to determine whether a refund may be required and funds returned to TSAC. The eligible Middle College shall provide the student with a notice indicating the amount to be returned to the student or the amount to be refunded to TSAC. Additionally, the eligible Middle College shall also be responsible for obtaining repayment from the student. The student shall be ineligible for student aid from TSAC until the refund is paid.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.10 POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT.

- (1) Middle College graduates shall have sixteen (16) months to enroll in a four-year eligible postsecondary institution after completion of high school. Failure to enroll in a four-year eligible postsecondary institution within sixteen (16) months shall render a student permanently ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship.
- (2) Enrollment at a non-regionally accredited institution between graduation from Middle College and enrollment at a four-year eligible postsecondary institution shall make a student permanently ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship.
- (3) To be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship upon transfer to an eligible four-year postsecondary institution, a Middle College graduate shall have met all academic and non-academic requirements of the HOPE Scholarship while previously enrolled in any regionally accredited postsecondary institution.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909

1640-01-29-.11 SUBSTITUTE COURSES.

- (1) An eligible Middle College program may accept early postsecondary opportunity courses taken by Middle College students in high school for purposes of determining full-time enrollment and associate degree graduation requirements, so long as postsecondary credit for such courses is not based on results from an end-of-course summative assessment.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-909