



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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The Honorable John Carney
Governor

John McNeal
SCPD Director

February 25, 2021

Department of Education
Office of the Secretary
Attn: Regulation Review
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

RE: 24 DE Reg. 753 Proposed DOE Regulation on Scholarship Incentive Program (February 1, 2021)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Department of Education's (DOE's) proposal to amend 14 Del. Admin. C. 1203, which outlines the eligibility criteria and application process for the Scholarship Incentive Program ("ScIP") pursuant to 14 Del. C. §§ 183 and 3402(c). DOE, acting in cooperation with the Delaware Higher Education Office ("DHEO"), seeks the consent of the State Board of Education to amend this regulation to include an updated definition of academic merit to align with federal standards for receiving financial aid at a college or university and an update to the application process to reflect a new online application. The proposed regulation was published as 24 DE Reg. 753 in the February 1, 2021 issue of the Register of Regulations. SCPD has the following observations and recommendations.

§ 2.0 clarifies the terms used for the Scholarship Incentive Program by adding acronyms to the terms. The following terms and definitions were removed: (1) Academic Record, (2) Critical Need Area, (3) Grade Point Average, and (4)

Regionally Accredited Institution. The term and definition Satisfactory Academic Progress was added to further define the eligibility requirements for the Scholarship Incentive Program.

Section 3.2.2 establishes the new application process for the Scholarship Incentive Program. It abolishes the submission of paper applications by mail, fax, or email and adds that the online application would be completed through the DHEO Student Account Access website. Applications would be submitted during the acceptance period.

DOE adds § 4.1.3 to add a requirement that all eligible applicants should be making Satisfactory Academic Progress.

§ 5 outlines the number and amount of scholarships awarded annually. Proposed § 5.2 clarifies how DHEO will determine an applicant's financial need for the purpose of ScIP by deleting language and adding: To determine an applicant's financial need for the purpose of ScIP; DHEO will consider the applicant's EFC; the expense of attending the college or university in which the applicant is enrolled; and the applicant's eligibility for Pell grants and other federal, state, or private grant assistance."

Proposed § 6.1 adds language that DHEO shall contact "a recipient's college or university to verify the recipient's financial and enrollment status and to verify that the student is making Satisfactory Academic Progress each semester prior to the scholarship funds being disbursed." The recipient would have to successfully complete coursework according to the standards of the college or university in which the student is eligible to receive financial ai

SCPD endorses the proposed regulation contingent upon the DOE including alternative submission options for individuals with disabilities that are unable to use technology and individuals that do have access to the internet. For ease, the last date of the application acceptance period should remain the same.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our observations and recommendations on the proposed regulation.

Sincerely,



Terri Hancharick, Chairperson

State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: The Honorable Susan Bunting, Department of Education
Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Department of Education
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Tracy Poitras - PSB
Kathleen Smith - Professional Standards Board
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