

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
July 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-20.0281, Florida Incentive Scholarship Program

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02(1), 1009.893(14), Florida Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The title and all references to Florida Incentive Scholarship Program are changed to Benacquisto Scholarship. Obsolete language related to the first year of implementation is removed. Reference to the National Achievement[®] award, which is no longer sponsored by the National Merit[®] Scholarship Corporation, is removed.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-20.0281, F.A.C.

Facilitator: Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

6A-20.0281 Benacquisto Scholarship Florida Incentive Scholarship Program.

(1) ~~The Florida National Merit Scholar Incentive Program shall be referred to as the Florida Incentive Scholarship Program.~~

(2) ~~A Scholar is defined as a National Merit[®] Finalist who receives a National Merit[®] \$2500 Scholarship, a Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship[®], a College-sponsored Merit Scholarship[®] or an Institutional award provided to 2014 National Merit[®] Finalists who did not receive one of the other three scholarships associated with the National Merit[®] Scholarship program; or, a National Achievement[®] Finalist who receives a National Achievement \$2500 Scholarship[®] or a Corporate-sponsored Achievement Scholarship[®].~~

(1) ~~(3)~~ General eligibility requirements. To receive a Benacquisto Scholarship award Florida Incentive Scholarship Program award, a student shall meet requirements set in Section 1009.893, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and:

(a) through (d) No change.

(e) Meet the qualifications of a National Merit[®] Scholar as defined in subsection (2) of this rule.

(2) A National Merit[®] Scholar is defined as a National Merit[®] Finalist who receives a National Merit[®] \$2500 Scholarship, a Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship[®], or a College-sponsored Merit Scholarship[®].

(3) ~~(4)~~ Eligible institutions are public state universities, Florida colleges and independent institutions that offer baccalaureate degree programs and are regionally accredited. Regional accreditors are identified by the United States Department of Education.

(4) ~~(5)~~ Award amounts. An eligible student who attends a Florida public postsecondary institution will receive an award equal to the on-campus institutional cost of attendance as reported by the Board of Governors of the State University System, less the sum of the student's Bright Futures Scholarship and the National Merit[®] Scholarship or National Achievement[®] Scholarship. An eligible student who attends a Florida independent postsecondary institution will receive an award equal to the highest on-campus institutional cost of attendance as reported by the Board of Governors of the State University System, less the sum of the student's Bright Futures Scholarship and the National Merit[®] Scholarship or National Achievement[®] Scholarship.

(5) A student who receives a Benacquisto Scholarship shall be known as a Benacquisto Scholar.

(6) Renewal requirements. Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester, third quarter or the equivalent of each academic year. To receive a Benacquisto Scholarship Florida Incentive Scholarship Program renewal award, a Benacquisto Scholar student shall meet both the grade point average and credit hour

requirements set in Section 1009.893(6), F.S. The student is no longer eligible to continue to receive the scholarship if these requirements are not met.

(a) The cumulative grade point average shall be calculated by the institution where the student is enrolled as degree-seeking. This cumulative grade point average is the student's institutional cumulative grade point average. The cumulative grade point average shall be computed to two (2) decimals and shall not be rounded.

(b) A Benacquisto Scholar ~~The student~~ must earn all credits for the hours in which he or she is enrolled each term as of the institution's regular drop/add period. If a Benacquisto Scholar ~~student~~ fails to earn the required hours during any term within the academic year, the student will not meet the hour requirement to renew the scholarship.

(c) Eligibility criteria for a reinstated award shall be determined if the Benacquisto Scholar ~~student~~ did not receive scholarship funding for the last academic year during which he or she was eligible after receiving initial funding. The Benacquisto Scholar ~~student~~ must submit Form FFAA-3, Florida Financial Aid Reinstatement/Restoration Application, as incorporated by reference in Rule 6A-20.027, F.A.C., by May 30 of the year the student is seeking funding.

(7) Appeals. For the purpose of eligibility, in accordance with Section 1009.40(1)(b)4., F.S., a Benacquisto Scholar ~~student~~ who does not earn the required renewal grade point average or the hours for renewed status may still be renewed if granted an exception from the academic requirements. A Benacquisto Scholar ~~student~~ must submit an institution appeal at the institution where the student did not meet the renewal requirements for renewed status and provide documentation as required by the institution within thirty (30) days of the ineligibility notice or institutional deadline, whichever is later.

(8) Institutional responsibilities.

(a) Participating postsecondary institutions shall comply with Rules 6A-20.002 and 6A-20.0021, F.A.C.; and,

(b) Verify, prior to disbursement each term, each recipient's graduation from a Florida high school, or the equivalent, Florida residency, degree-seeking status, National Merit[®] or National Achievement[®] status, and receipt of a qualifying award as defined in subsection (2) of this rule.

(c) If eligible to become a college sponsor, all eligible state universities shall become college sponsors of the National Merit Scholarship[®] Program.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(1), 1009.893(14) (12) FS. Law Implemented 1009.40, 1009.893 FS. History—New 4-1-15.

Amended