

Missouri State Aid Updates



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Journey to  College

Today's Topics

- Budget, Budget, Budget
- Program Updates
- COVID-19 Accommodations

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FY 2021 Budget Situation



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FY 21 Budget Restrictions

Only Bright Flight affected:

Requested: \$24,176,666 (\$500,000 more than FY 20)

Appropriated: \$20,176,666 (\$3.5M less than FY 20)

Restricted: (\$ 6,470,893)

Available: \$13,705,773

Impact:

Awards reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,800 for Top 3%
(\$0 for 4th & 5th percentiles)

FY 21 Budget A+ Scholarship

Requested: \$45,913,326 (\$4.8M more than FY 20)

Appropriated: \$41,113,326 (same as FY 20)

Impact:

- Greater demand in FY20 than anticipated led to no carryover funds for summer
- Expected continued cost increase combined with no new money
- Potential reduction in number of credit hours eligible for reimbursement
- No funding available for dual credit/dual enrollment scholarships

FY 21 Budget Access Missouri

Requested: \$73,421,052 (\$7M more than FY 20)

Appropriated: \$63,921,052 (\$2.5M less than FY 20)

Impact:

- FAFSA filing down but less money
- Current estimates
 - Award reduction from 75% of statutory maximum to 70%
 - \$2,000 max award at 4-year institutions & State Tech; \$910 max award at 2-year institutions
 - April 1 deadline
- Final awards announced in August

FY 21 Budget Fast Track

Requested: \$24,445,014 (\$10M more than FY 20)

Appropriated: \$ 3,000,000 (\$7M less than FY 20)

Impact:

- Inclusion of independent institutions based on GR and GEER fund appropriations (\$1M each)
- Anticipate full awards until funds are depleted
- Renewal students have priority, then application date

FY 21 Budget Other Programs

- Marguerite Ross Barnett funding eliminated (requested \$413,375)
- Other state aid programs' funding flat:
 - Advanced Placement Incentive Grant: \$100,000
 - Kids' Chance Scholarship: \$15,000
 - MUELP: \$32,964
 - Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant: \$153,000
 - Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant: \$315,000
 - Dual Credit Scholarship (not tied to A+): \$0

Program Updates



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A+ Scholarship

Administrative Rule Revisions

- Effective 7/30/19
 - Attend an A+ HS for any 3 years
(was 3 years immediately prior to HS graduation)
- Effective 5/30/20
 - Revised to accommodate dual credit/dual enrollment scholarship
 - Attend an A+ HS for any 2 years
 - Verification of 2.5 CGPA at end of each term for postsecondary students

Bright Flight

- Monitoring potential ACT score change for 2022 seniors
- Considering impact of new, official ACT superscore

Fast Track

- New program for adults in 2019-2020
 - 25+ years old or out of school for at least 2 years
- Need-based
 - Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$80,000 or less if married filing jointly \$40,000 or less for all other tax filing statuses

Fast Track

- Grant converts to a loan if employment requirement not met
 - Missouri resident & employed full-time in MO for 3 years after graduation
 - Potential loan amount reduced by 1/3 for each year of employment
 - Must be repaid with interest if obligations not met
- Automation added in 2020-2021 to expedite payment process (potentially from one month to one week)

COVID-19 Accommodations



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State Aid Programs - General

Eligible for payment if eligible when school:

- Closed
- Began alternative delivery method

(10 business day verification periods waived)

Full-time enrollment for 8-week sessions even if:

- Institution closed or began alternative delivery methods before the second session began
- Student didn't attend 2nd 8-week session
- Enrollment for both sessions must equal full-time

State Aid Programs – General (cont'd)

2.5 CGPA

- SAP as defined by institution (2.5 CGPA not required) to renew for fall 2020
- Fall only for programs w/statutory CGPA requirement:
 - Access
 - Bright Flight
 - Fast Track
 - War Vet
- All other programs accommodation for full year
- Advanced Placement
 - Based on A+ or Access, depending on how student qualifies
- Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant
 - N/A – already SAP as defined by institution

A+ for 2020 H. S. Seniors

- GPA requirement
 - If GPA calculated, 2.5 CGPA at the end of either the fall 2019 or spring 2020 semesters qualifies
 - If pass/fail grading for spring 2020, CGPA at time in-person classes halted or at end of 3rd quarter
- Algebra I EOC (and alternative) requirement waived

A+ for 2020 H. S. Seniors (cont'd)

- Tutoring/mentoring requirement
 - Reduced from 50 to 25 hours
 - Exceptional circumstances extension still available
 - Flexibility in meeting this requirement allowed
 - Policy revisions may be temporary or permanent
- 95% attendance requirement
 - Calculation per high school's policy still required
 - Based on total coursework in which the student is enrolled, regardless of delivery method in 4th quarter
 - Blanket “appeal” for COVID-19 available if applied consistently to all A+ students.
 - Individual appeals for health issues still possible

A+ for 2020 H. S. Seniors (cont'd)

Verification of A+ Eligibility

- Stamped transcript preferred
- Letter can be substituted if:
 - On school letterhead
 - Includes verbiage specified in e-distribution message
 - Signed by the principal or A+ coordinator, with typed name and title of the signatory

A+ for Postsecondary Students

- **Renewal GPA**
 - Institutional definition of SAP by the end of Spring 2020, (GPA can be less than 2.5)
 - Only applies to students who were eligible for an award in the 2019-2020 academic year
- **Full-time Enrollment and Completion requirements**
 - Met if eligible at time of closure or conversion to alternative delivery
 - Original guidance linking these to the All Available Hours exception to full-time enrollment was inadequate
- Coursework eligible at closure/conversion is reimbursable

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Fast Track Certification

Total Hours Enrolled

- Number of hours enrolled at the time of closure or change to another delivery method

Tuition Calculation

- Based on number of hours enrolled in at the time of the closure or change to another delivery method

Questions

State Aid Questions

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General Questions

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