

Tab J Attachment 3

State Student Financial Aid Policy Task Force Charge

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education Blueprint for Higher Education begins with the following statements:

“Missouri’s future depends on an educated citizenry. The private and public benefits of higher education are the building blocks of a vibrant society, a thriving economy, and a good quality of life for all Missourians.”

To achieve the benefits referenced in that quote, the Coordinating Board recognized the crucial role that affordability must play by highlighting that issue as one of the five goals established as part of the Blueprint. Within that goal, the first strategy is the convening of a new state student financial aid task force. In implementing that strategy, the Coordinating Board charges the task force with the following responsibilities.

1. Recommend a broad policy framework that will result in a more balanced, responsive, and efficient state aid system.
2. Recommend policies that address the following issues:
 - a. The balance between need-based and merit-based support for students.
 - b. The alignment of the policy framework with the state goals identified in the Blueprint and other relevant documents.
 - c. The need to reduce or fully cover the cost for up to two years of postsecondary education for all eligible students.
 - d. The need for flexibility and inclusiveness in order for the resulting programs to respond to a variety of enrollment options.
 - e. The options for providing real-world job experience and skill development as part of the student aid system.
 - f. The need to provide new types of aid or revised aid approaches that promote persistence and completion, particularly for at-risk students.
 - g. Other issues identified by the task force.
3. Review and evaluate the policy foundation for the current portfolio of state student assistance programs and incorporate the evaluation into the policy framework.