

Twenty-first Century Scholars 2011 Legislative Changes

References: SEA 577 and HEA 1001

Enrollment Changes

- Enrollment is limited to 7th and 8th graders only (6th graders can no longer enroll).
- Scholars will be informed that they must participate in an academic success program.
- Scholars entering high school during the fall of 2011 and later (class of 2015 and beyond) must graduate with a high school cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.
- To meet eligibility, a student must be a member of a household with an annual income of not more than the amount required for the student to qualify for [federal] free or reduced price lunches, as determined by the immediately preceding tax year for the household. Students may continue to enroll under Foster care status.

Scholarship (post-HS) Changes

- Scholars must begin using the scholarship within one year instead of two. (E.g., If student graduates June 2012, he/she must be enrolled no later than fall semester 2013.)
- State grant money must be used within 8 years of the time a student begins using it.
- Scholars will have to participate in an academic success program while in college. There will be a one year grace period for implementing this part of the legislation.
- College freshmen will be required to meet “satisfactory academic progress” as defined by their college. Sophomores will be required to maintain at least a 2.25 GPA and college juniors and seniors must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA beginning Fall 2012.

Delayed Changes

- Those enrolling in TFC Scholars program during enrollment year 2011-12 and beyond who do not qualify for any state need-based aid (e.g. Frank O’Bannon Grant) when entering college will receive a one-time amount of \$2,500 or less, as necessary for SSACI to meet the state’s 21st Century Scholarship budget appropriation.
- If a Scholar is eligible for state need-based aid, the 21st Century Scholarship amount may be reduced from full public college tuition or the private or proprietary cap as necessary for SSACI to meet the state’s 21st Century Scholarship budget appropriation.