



**Terri Kondeff**  
**Director**

# Legislative Services Office Idaho State Legislature

---

*Serving Idaho's Citizen Legislature*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senators LENT, Toews, Ward-Engelking and,  
Representatives YAMAMOTO, McCann, Berch

**FROM:** Trevor Ahrens - Legislative Drafting Attorney

**DATE:** July 07, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Temporary Rule

IDAPA 08.01.13 - Rules Governing the Opportunity Scholarship Program - Adoption of Temporary Rule - Docket No. 08-0113-2301

We are forwarding this temporary rule to you for your information only. No analysis was done by LSO. This rule is posted on our web site. If you have any questions, please call Trevor Ahrens at the Legislative Services Office at (208) 334-4845. Thank you.

Attachment: Temporary Rule

---

Paul Headlee, Deputy Director   Kristin Ford, Manager   Keith Bybee, Manager   April Renfro, Manager   Glenn Harris, Manager  
Legislative Services Office   Research & Legislation   Budget & Policy Analysis   Legislative Audits   Information Technology

Statehouse, P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0054

Tel: 208-334-2475  
legislature.idaho.gov

**IDAPA 08 – STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**08.01.13 – RULES GOVERNING THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
**DOCKET NO. 08-0113-2301**  
**NOTICE OF RULEMAKING – ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULE**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The effective date of the temporary rule is July 1, 2023.

**AUTHORITY:** In compliance with Sections 67-5226, Idaho Code, notice is hereby given this agency has adopted a temporary rule. The action is authorized pursuant Article IX, Section 2, Idaho Constitution and under Sections 33-105, 33-4303, and 33-4304, Idaho Code.

**DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:** The following is the required finding and concise statement of its supporting reasons for adopting a temporary rule:

The temporary rule would allow for the award timeline of the Opportunity Scholarship to change from July 1 to December 31, 2023. Therefore, initial award information for both the Opportunity Scholarship and Launch grant programs will be made at the same time. The Opportunity Scholarship is awarded to applicants based on academic merit and verification of financial need through FAFSA. Currently, federal revision of the FAFSA is underway which will delay the Board’s ability to verify financial need of applicants for the 2024-2025 academic year awards until after December 31, 2023. This temporary rule will allow the administrative team to calculate the monetary value and notice the estimated award by December 31, 2023, thereby aligning the award notice dates with the Launch grant program. It will also allow the Board to adjust the final award and payment after verification of financial need can be completed.

**TEMPORARY RULE JUSTIFICATION:** Pursuant to Section 67-5226(1)(c), Idaho Code, the Governor has found that temporary adoption of the rule is appropriate for the following reasons.

If the rule is not promulgated, the Opportunity Scholarship and Launch Grant Program initial awards will not be aligned, as the Opportunity Scholarship initial award date will remain July 1. This factor will result in a negative impact on awardees.

**FEE SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 67-5226(2), the Governor has found that the fee or charge being imposed or increased is justified and necessary to avoid immediate danger and the fee is described herein: N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) during the fiscal year resulting from this rulemaking: None

**ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS:** For assistance on technical questions concerning the temporary rule, contact Nicholas Wagner at (208) 488-7586 or [Nicholas.Wagner@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Wagner@osbe.idaho.gov).

DATED this 26th day of May, 2023.

Nicholas Wagner  
Administrative Rules Coordinator  
Idaho State Board of Education  
650 W State St.  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0037  
Phone: (208)488-7586  
fax: (208)334-2632

**THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE TEMPORARY RULE FOR DOCKET NO. 08-0113-2301**  
**(Only Those Sections With Amendments Are Shown.)**

**101. ELIGIBILITY.**

Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements to be considered for the scholarship award. (4-6-23)

**01. Academic Eligibility.** To be eligible for an opportunity scholarship, an applicant must meet minimum academic eligibility criteria, as follows: (4-6-23)

**a.** A student who has not yet graduated from an eligible secondary school or its equivalent in the state of Idaho must have an un-weighted minimum cumulative grade point of average of two point seven (2.7) or better on a scale of four point zero (4.0) to be eligible to apply for an opportunity scholarship. Cumulative grade point averages of more than one (1) decimal place shall be rounded to one (1) place. Home schooled students must provide a transcript of subjects taught and grades received signed by the parent or guardian of the student; or (4-6-23)

**b.** A student who has obtained a general equivalency diploma must have taken the ACT assessment and received a minimum composite score of twenty (20) or better, or the equivalent SAT assessment and received a one thousand ten (1,010) or better, to be academically eligible to apply for an opportunity scholarship; or (4-6-23)

**c.** A student currently enrolled in an eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of two point seven (2.7) or better on a scale of four point zero (4.0) at such institution in order to be academically eligible to apply for an opportunity scholarship. Cumulative grade point averages of more than one (1) decimal place shall be rounded to one (1) place. (4-6-23)

**d.** An Adult Learner must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of two point five (2.5) or higher on a scale of four point zero (4.0). Cumulative grade point averages of more than one (1) decimal place shall be rounded to one (1) decimal place. (4-6-23)

**02. Financial Eligibility.** The financial need of an applicant for an opportunity scholarship will be based upon the ~~verified expected family contribution~~ **Student Aid Index (SAI)**, as identified by the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) ~~Student Aid report~~ **Submission Summary**. ~~The Student Aid report used to calculate financial need will be the report generated on the scholarship application deadline.~~ (4-6-23)(7-1-23)T

**03. Additional Eligibility Requirements.** (4-6-23)

**a.** A student must not be in default on a student educational loan, or owe a repayment on a federal grant, and must be in good financial standing with the opportunity scholarship program. (4-6-23)

**b.** If a student has attempted or completed more than one hundred and twenty (120) postsecondary credits, then such student must identify a major, the required number of credits necessary for graduation in such major, and shall submit an academic transcript that contains all courses taken and all postsecondary credit received to the Board office. A student shall not be eligible for an opportunity scholarship if: (4-6-23)

**i.** The student has completed more than one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the courses and academic credit necessary to graduate in such major; or (4-6-23)

**ii.** Upon review of the student's academic transcript(s), the student cannot complete a degree/certificate in the major identified within two (2) semesters based on normal academic course load unless a determination by the executive director or designee has been made that there are extenuating circumstances and the student has a plan approved by the executive director or designee outlining the courses that will be taken and the completion date of the degree or certificate. (4-6-23)

**102. -- 201. (RESERVED)**

**202. APPLICATION PROCESS.**

**01. Applications.** An eligible student must complete and submit the opportunity scholarship program application to the Board electronically on or before the ~~date specified in the application, but not later than the~~ deadline set by the executive director each year. Adult Learner applications will be processed and awarded on a monthly basis up to the application deadline. An applicant without electronic capabilities may request a waiver of this requirement and, if granted, submit an application on the form established by the Board through the United States Postal Service that must be postmarked not later than the applicable application deadline. The FAFSA must be completed on or prior to the application deadline except for any applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. (4-6-23)(7-1-23)T

**02. Announcement of Award.** For the 2024-2025 academic year, Announcement of the award of initial scholarships will be made no later than ~~June +December 31, 2023 of each year,~~ with awards to be effective at the beginning of the first full term following July 1 of that year of the next fiscal year. Announcements must clearly state the award is part of the state's scholarship program and is funded through state appropriated funds. Additional award announcement may be made after this date based on the availability of funds ~~and the acceptance rate of the initial awards.~~ (4-6-23)(7-1-23)T

**03. Communication with State Officials.** Applicants must respond by the date specified to any communication from officials of the opportunity scholarship program. Failure to respond within the time period specified will result in cancellation of the scholarship unless extenuating circumstances are involved and approved by the executive director or designee. (4-6-23)

**203. -- 299. (RESERVED)**

**300. SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.**

**01. Selection Process.** Scholarship awards will be based on the availability of scholarship program funds. Opportunity scholarships will be awarded to applicants, based on ranking and priority, in accordance with the following criteria: (4-6-23)

**a.** Eligible students shall be selected based on ranking criteria that assigns seventy percent (70%) to financial eligibility, and thirty percent (30%) to academic eligibility. In the event that this weighted score results in a tie, an eligible student who submitted an application to the Board earlier in time will be assigned a higher rank. (4-6-23)

**b.** Notwithstanding Subsection 300.01.a. of these rules, the priority for the selection of recipients of opportunity scholarship awards shall be to scholarship recipients who received an opportunity scholarship award during the previous fiscal year, and have met all of the continuing eligibility requirements provided in these rules. (4-6-23)

**02. Monetary Value of the Opportunity Scholarship.** (4-6-23)

**a.** The monetary value of the opportunity scholarship award to a student shall be based on the educational costs for attending an eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution, less the following: (4-6-23)

**i.** The amount of the assigned student responsibility, established by the Board annually; (4-6-23)

**ii.** The amount of federal grant aid, as identified by ~~the Student Aid Report (SAR) that is the FAFSA~~ Submission Summary if known at the time of award determination; (4-6-23)(7-1-23)T

**iii.** The amount of other financial aid awarded the student, from private or other sources that is known at the time of award determination. (4-6-23)

**iv.** The eligible maximum award amount for Adult Learners enrolled in less than twenty-four (24) credit hours or its equivalent in an academic year attending an eligible four-year postsecondary institution, ~~or less~~

~~than eighteen (18) credit hours or its equivalent in an academic year attending an eligible two-year institution,~~ will be prorated as follows: ~~(4-6-23)(7-1-23)T~~

- (1) Enrolled in six (6) to eight (8) credits or its equivalent per term - fifty percent (50%) of the maximum; (4-6-23)
- (2) Enrolled in nine (9) to eleven (11) credits or its equivalent per term - seventy-five percent (75%) of the maximum; and (4-6-23)
- (3) Enrolled in twelve (12) or more credits or its equivalent per term - one hundred percent (100%) of the maximum. (4-6-23)

**b.** The amount of an opportunity scholarship award to an individual student shall not exceed the actual cost of tuition and fees at the institution the student attends or will attend, or if the student attends or will attend an Idaho private postsecondary educational institution, the average tuition at Idaho's public four (4) year postsecondary educational institutions. (4-6-23)

**c.** Due to federal delays in FAFSA applications for the 2024-25 academic year, the Board may determine monetary value of the scholarship without the FAFSA Submission Summary and may adjust the final award and payment upon receipt of the FAFSA Submission Summary. (7-1-23)T

### **301. OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.**

**01. Payment.** Payment of opportunity scholarship awards will be made in the name of the recipient and will be sent to a designated official at the eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution in which the recipient is enrolled. The official must transmit the payment to the recipient within a reasonable time following receipt of the payment. (4-6-23)

**02. Duration.** Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis and payments will correspond to academic terms, semesters, quarters, or equivalent units. In no instance will the entire amount of a scholarship be paid in advance to, or on behalf of, a scholarship recipient. The scholarship may cover up to four (4) educational years, or eight (8) semesters or equivalent for attendance at an eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution. Awards are contingent on annual appropriations by the legislature and continued eligibility of the student. (4-6-23)

**03. Eligibility.** If a student receives an opportunity scholarship payment and it is later determined that the student did not meet all of the Opportunity Scholarship Program eligibility requirements, then the student is considered in overpayment status, and must return program funds in accordance with the eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution's refund policy. (4-6-23)

**04.** New Scholarships for Community College. The Board may not award any new scholarship, excluding renewals, to any student attending community college on or after July 1, 2023. (7-1-23)T

### **302. CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.**

To remain eligible for renewal of an opportunity scholarship, the recipient must comply with all of the provisions of the Opportunity Scholarship Program. (4-6-23)

**01. Credit Hours.** To remain eligible for renewal of an opportunity scholarship, the scholarship recipient attending a four (4) year eligible postsecondary institution must have completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) credit hours or its equivalent each academic year that the student received an opportunity scholarship award. ~~A scholarship recipient attending a two (2) year eligible postsecondary institution must have completed a minimum of eighteen (18) credit hours or its equivalent each academic year that the student received an opportunity scholarship award.~~ Notwithstanding these provisions, a scholarship recipient who has received the Opportunity Scholarship as an Adult Learner may retain eligibility by completing twelve (12) or more credit hours or its equivalent each academic year the student received the Opportunity Scholarship award. All students may use the summer term to meet the annual credit accumulation requirements. (4-6-23)(7-1-23)T

**02. Academic Progress.** To remain eligible for renewal of an opportunity scholarship, the scholarship

recipient must have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of two point seven (2.7) on a scale of four point zero (4.0), and must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward their identified postsecondary credential as determined by the institution they are enrolled in. Students receiving an Opportunity Scholarship award as an Adult Learner must make satisfactory progress on their graduation plan established with the eligible institution at the time of admission. (4-6-23)

**03. Eligibility Following Interruption of Continuous Enrollment.** A scholarship recipient whose continuous enrollment is interrupted for more than four (4) months but less than two (2) years for any reason but who intends to re-enroll in an eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution must file a letter of intent to withdraw no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the academic term of the discontinued attendance to the Office of the State Board of Education. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the scholarship. The Board's Executive Director or designee will review each request for interruption and notify the individual of approval or denial of the request. In addition, the individual must file a statement with the Board declaring intent to re-enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in an academic or career technical program in an eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution for the succeeding academic year no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the academic term in which the individual intends to re-enroll within two (2) years of the approval of the request to withdraw. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the scholarship unless an extension has been granted. An extension of interruption of continuous enrollment period may be granted for eligible students due to military service in the United States armed forces, medical circumstances, or other circumstances approved by the executive director. All requests for extension must be made thirty (30) days prior to the start of the succeeding academic year. (4-6-23)