

## Red Tape Review Rule Report (Due: September 1, 2025)

<b>Department Name:</b>	Iowa Department of Education – Bureau of Iowa College Aid	<b>Date:</b>	12/31/2024	<b>Total Rule Count:</b>	11
<b>IAC #:</b>	283	<b>Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):</b>	Chapter 15	<b>Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:</b>	256.178 and 256.228
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**PLEASE NOTE, THE BOXES BELOW WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE**

**What is the intended benefit of the rule?**

Iowa residents, eligible institutions, and the Commission will benefit from the rulemaking since it clarifies the consistent processes by which Iowans will apply for and qualify for the scholarship, while also illustrating the duties of the eligible institutions, the Commission, and applicants in the administration of the scholarship. In addition, the rulemaking ensures the integrity of the program through periodic compliance reviews and details the process used to align high-demand occupations with programs of study offered by eligible institutions and the application process for institutions to participate in the program.

**Is the benefit being achieved? Please provide evidence.**

The benefit of the rule is achieved, as each of the processes and provisions intended to provide a benefit are illustrated within the rulemaking.

**What are the costs incurred by the public to comply with the rule?**

Since the application process is the same as that leveraged by other state scholarship/grant programs, there is no additional cost to the public to comply with the rule.

**What are the costs to the agency or any other agency to implement/enforce the rule?**

Compliance reviews: Compliance reviews are performed at the institution-level, covering all state-funded financial aid programs in which the institution disburses funds. Since the review itself covers multiple programs, the College Student Aid Commission can't assign a direct cost to a specific program. Although, staff spend an estimated cumulative total of 40 hours on a compliance review for an institution; a fraction of which could be assigned to a specific program. Data obtained from institutions suggests that institutional staff spend under 10 hours collecting the required documents, transmitting them to the College Student Aid Commission, answering questions, responding to findings, and developing corrective action plans; again, a fraction of which could be assigned to an individual program. The proposed rulemaking leverages existing official public data aligning high-demand jobs to eligible programs of study, ensuring that an administratively burdensome process to recreate a crosswalk that aligns high-demand jobs to programs of study is not necessary. The proposed rulemaking requires an applicant institution to apply by October 1 prior to the academic year in which the institution plans to participate in the program. This application deadline will allow the Commission adequate time

to update systems, train institutional staff who will be involved in the administration of the program, and for students who may attend the applicant institution to apply for funding.

**Do the costs justify the benefits achieved? Please explain.**

The costs justify the benefits achieved. The cost of inaction would be confusion in the process and criteria to be used in the application and awarding of funds under the program, as well as the potential for awarding errors and irregularities that would remain unchecked without periodic compliance reviews.

**Are there less restrictive alternatives to accomplish the benefit?  YES  NO**

**If YES, please list alternative(s) and provide analysis of less restrictive alternatives from other states, if applicable. If NO, please explain.**

The Commission has not identified a more cost effective alternative to the current internal process utilized for compliance reviews. Existing staff within the agency perform the compliance reviews, and the internal time commitment isn't such that outsourcing the compliance reviews would result in the elimination of agency staff – outsourcing would only lead to additional costs born to an external service provider.

In addition, the rule provides consistency related to general student eligibility criteria across all state financial aid programs, allowing for more efficient eligibility determinations and awarding of funds.

**Does this chapter/rule(s) contain language that is obsolete, outdated, inconsistent, redundant, or unnecessary language, including instances where rule language is duplicative of statutory language? [list chapter/rule number(s) that fall under any of the above categories]**

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Language within 8 rules was condensed and incorporated into other parts of the proposed rule. Through this process, 4 rules were eliminated.

15.4 – eliminated obsolete language and incorporated into other parts of the proposed rule.

15.6 – eliminated obsolete language and incorporated into other parts of the proposed rule.

15.9 – eliminated obsolete language and incorporated into other parts of the proposed rule.

15.10 – eliminated obsolete language and incorporated into other parts of the proposed rule.

**RULES PROPOSED FOR REPEAL (list rule number[s]):**

15.4, 15.6, 15.9, 15.10

**RULES PROPOSED FOR RE-PROMULGATION (list rule number[s] or include rule text if available):**

CHAPTER 15  
FUTURE READY IOWA SKILLED WORKFORCE LAST-DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**283—15.1(256) Basis for aid.** Assistance available under the future ready Iowa skilled workforce last-dollar scholarship program is for Iowa residents enrolled in approved programs aligned with high-demand jobs.

**283—15.2(256) Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

“*Approved program*” means an eligible program of study approved through the process described in rule 283—15.6(256).

“*Continuous enrollment*” means an eligible student is enrolled at least part-time in successive fall and spring semesters, or the equivalent, after receiving the award. Enrollment in the summer semester is not required to meet this condition.

“*Credential*” is defined in Iowa Code section 256.228(1)“d”.

“*Eligible institution*” meets the criteria in Iowa Code section 256.228(1) “e” and the provisions of 283—15.7(256).

“*Financial metric*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(256).

“*Full-time*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(256).

“*Iowa resident*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(256).

“*Part-time*” means enrollment in at least 6 but less than 12 hours per semester or the equivalent. An eligible student may enroll in fewer than 6 semester hours, or the equivalent, in the semester that the credential will be completed if part-time enrollment is not necessary to complete the program of study.

“*Satisfactory academic progress*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(256).

“*Semester*” means the fall, spring, or summer term of enrollment at an eligible institution, if the eligible institution is on a semester system, or the equivalent, if the institution is on a system other than a semester system.

**283—15.3(256) Eligible applicant.** An eligible applicant is an Iowa resident enrolled at least part-time in an approved program at an eligible institution and meets the program eligibility criteria and the following provisions:

1. Annually completes the applications the commission deems necessary on or before the date established by the commission and attends orientation, registers for classes with an academic advisor, and participates in career advising sessions.

2. Has an eligible financial metric in the first year the scholarship is received, meets satisfactory academic progress standards, and does not meet a condition in 283—subrule 10.3(1).

3. Maintains continuous enrollment.

4. Meets one of the following two conditions:

(a) Is under age 20 as of July 1 prior to the year of enrollment, and enrolls at least part-time following graduation from an Iowa high school, completion of private instruction under Iowa Code chapter 299A, or receipt of a high school equivalency diploma under Iowa Code chapter 259A.

(b) Following receipt of a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma, enrolls at least part-time in an approved program at an eligible institution after attaining the age of 20 as of July 1 prior to the year of enrollment. To receive an award under this condition, the eligible applicant cannot have received an award under 283—subparagraph 15.3(4)“a”.

**283—15.4(256) Awarding of funds.**

**15.4(1) Selection criteria:** All eligible applicants will be considered for an award.

**15.4(2) Extent of award and maximum award.** Eligible applicants may receive no more than the equivalent of eight part-time awards. The maximum award will be calculated as follows:

a. Awards for eligible students attending Iowa community colleges shall not exceed the remaining tuition and mandatory institutionwide fees after applying federal and state nonrepayable aid.

b. Awards for eligible students attending an accredited private institution, as defined in Iowa Code section 256.183, shall not exceed the average tuition and mandatory institutionwide fees at Iowa community colleges after applying federal and state nonrepayable aid. The average resident tuition and mandatory institutionwide fees will be used under this provision.

c. However, awards for eligible students enrolled on a full-time basis shall be at least \$250 per semester or the equivalent amount if the eligible institution operates on a system other than the semester system. Awards for eligible students enrolled on a part-time basis will be prorated by dividing the number of hours for which the student is enrolled by the required number of hours for full-time enrollment, and multiplying the quotient by the maximum award.

d. Tuition and institutionwide mandatory fees associated only with coursework required for the student’s Title IV-eligible program of study can be used to determine the award amount.

**15.4(3) Priority for awards.**

a. In the event that funds available are insufficient to provide maximum awards to all eligible applicants through the entire state fiscal year, awards will first be authorized to eligible applicants enrolled in the fall and spring semester or the equivalent,

and then to eligible applicants enrolled in the summer semester or the equivalent.

*b.* In the event that funds available are insufficient to provide the maximum award to all eligible applicants in a semester, the Commission may prorate awards to students in that semester.

**15.4(4) Awarding process.**

*a.* The commission will provide notice of the eligibility criteria and maximum award to participating eligible institutions annually to authorize awarding.

*b.* The commission will designate eligible applicants for awards, and provide eligible institutions with rosters of designated eligible applicants.

*c.* Eligible institutions will notify recipients of the awards, clearly indicating the award amount and the state program from which funding is being provided and stating that the award is contingent on the availability of state funds.

*d.* Eligible institutions will apply awards directly to student accounts.

*e.* Eligible institutions will provide information about eligible applicants to the commission in a format specified by the commission. Eligible institutions will make necessary changes to awards due to a change in enrollment, program of study, and financial situation, and promptly report those changes to the commission.

*f.* Eligible institutions are responsible for completing necessary verification and for coordinating other aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility requirements and allowable award amounts. Eligible institutions will report changes in student eligibility to the commission.

*g.* The commission will periodically investigate and review compliance of eligible institutions participating in this program with the criteria established in Iowa Code section 256.228 and this rule.

**283—15.5(256) Exceptions.** If an eligible applicant discontinues enrollment at the eligible institution due to military deployment, a temporary medical incapacity, in relation to a declaration of a national or state emergency, or other exceptional circumstances approved by the commission, the eligible applicant may apply for a waiver. If the waiver is approved, the eligible applicant is not required to maintain continuous enrollment during the period covered by the waiver.

**283—15.6(256) Determination of programs of study aligned with high-demand jobs.**

**15.6(1) Statewide high-demand jobs.** The commission will utilize the department of workforce development's most recent list of statewide high-demand jobs pursuant to Iowa Code section 84A.1B(14), and align those jobs to eligible programs of study.

**15.6(2) Regional high-demand jobs.** The commission will request submissions of regional high-demand jobs that align with eligible programs of study from each Iowa community college. Each Iowa community college may request up to five regional high-demand jobs to be considered for approval for students at that Iowa community college.

**15.6(3) Eligible programs of study.** The eligible institution will offer a career and technical education program of study that results in a credential that is aligned with employment in a high-demand job. The eligible program of study will meet similar criteria established for career and technical education programs approved under 281—Chapter 21. The classification of instructional program code and the standard occupation code will be used to align eligible programs of study to high-demand jobs.

**15.6(4) Approved program.** Before an eligible program of study is considered an approved program of study, the department of workforce development and the commission, in consultation with the Iowa department of education, will jointly certify that the program of study and credential are aligned with a high-demand job pursuant to 84A.1B(14).

**15.6(5) Grandfather clause.** If the state workforce development board or a community college district removes a high-demand job an eligible applicant who received an award in a program of study aligned with that high-demand job will continue to receive the award as long as the eligible applicant continues to meet all other eligibility criteria.

**283—15.7(256) Institution eligibility requirements.**

**15.7(1) Application process.** An institution requesting to participate in the program may apply to the commission using the commission's designated application. An applicant institution will provide the commission with documentation establishing their eligibility as an eligible institution that offers eligible programs of study. Applicant institutions will submit the application and documentation establishing their eligibility on or before October 1 of the year prior to the beginning of the academic year for which they are applying for participation.

**15.7(2)** A list of all eligible programs of study, as well as the necessary courses and the suggested course sequence, will be available in a prominent location on the eligible institution's website.

**\*For rules being re-promulgated with changes, you may attach a document with suggested changes.**

**METRICS**

<b>Total number of rules repealed:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation</b>	<b>848</b>
<b>Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation</b>	<b>34</b>

**ARE THERE ANY STATUTORY CHANGES YOU WOULD RECOMMEND INCLUDING CODIFYING ANY RULES?**