

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

Department Name:	Iowa Department of Education – Bureau of Iowa College Aid	Date:	12/8/2023	Total Rule Count:	1
IAC #:	283	Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):	Chapter 23	Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:	256.178 and 256.227
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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 grant, while also illustrating the duties of the eligible institutions, the Commission, and applicants in the administration of the grant. 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.

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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Federal legislation that changes the part-time award proration of Federal Pell Grants and replaces the expected family contribution with the student aid index are effective for the 2024-25 academic year. The following sections of the current rule are impacted by these changes.

23.1(1)(a): References expected family contribution

23.1(1)(b): References expected family contribution

23.1(2)(e): Illustrates what will be an outdated grant proration for part-time awards

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

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

CHAPTER 23
SKILLED WORKFORCE SHORTAGE TUITION GRANT PROGRAM

283—23.1(261) Basis of aid. Assistance available under the Iowa skilled workforce shortage tuition grant program is tuition-restricted, and is also based on the financial metric and financial need of Iowa residents enrolled in eligible programs of study at Iowa community colleges.

283—23.2(261) Definitions.

“*Financial metric*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(261).

“*Financial need*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(261).

“*Full-time*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(261).

“*Iowa resident*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(261).

“*Part-time*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(261).

“*Program of study*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(261).

“*Satisfactory academic progress*” means the same as defined in 283—10.2(261).

283—23.3(261) Eligible applicant. An eligible applicant is an Iowa resident enrolled at least part-time in a program of study that is classified as a career and technical education program by the Iowa department of education, aligns with a high-demand job identified by the department of workforce development or an Iowa community college as specified in rule 283—23.5(261), and meets the program eligibility criteria and the following provisions:

1. Completes the applications the commission deems necessary on or before the date established by the commission.
2. Establishes financial need, has an eligible financial metric, meets satisfactory academic progress standards, and does not meet a condition in 283—subrule 10.3(1).

283—23.4(261) Awarding of funds.

23.4(1) Selection criteria. All eligible applicants will be considered for an award.

23.4(2) Extent of award and maximum award. Eligible applicants may receive no more than the equivalent of four full-time awards. If the program of study cannot be completed by the eligible applicant within the extent of the award, the eligible applicant can qualify for the equivalent of one additional full-time award. These limits reset after two years of no postsecondary enrollment, pursuant to Iowa Code section 261.130(5)“b”.

a. The maximum award for full-time students will not exceed the student’s financial need, and will not exceed one-half of the average community college tuition and fee rate in the year prior to the academic year in which the award is calculated.

b. The award is calculated in conjunction with the federal pell grant and the Iowa vocational technical tuition grant, with the goal of providing awards to as many eligible applicants as possible.

c. When awarded in combination with other tuition-restricted funds, the total amount of tuition-restricted funding including a skilled workforce shortage tuition grant cannot exceed the total tuition and mandatory fees charged to the recipient.

d. A part-time student will receive a prorated award, as defined by the commission, which is calculated 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.

23.4(3) Awarding process.

a. The commission will provide notice of the eligibility criteria and maximum award to participating Iowa community colleges annually to authorize awarding.

b. The commission will designate eligible applicants for awards, and provide Iowa community colleges with rosters of designated eligible applicants.

c. Iowa community colleges 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. Iowa community colleges will apply awards directly to student accounts to cover tuition and mandatory fees.

e. Iowa community colleges will provide information about eligible applicants to the commission in a format specified by the commission. Iowa community colleges 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. Iowa community colleges are responsible for completing necessary verification and for coordinating other aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility requirements and allowable award amounts. Iowa community colleges will report changes in student eligibility to the commission.

g. The commission will periodically investigate and review compliance of Iowa community colleges participating in this program with the criteria established in Iowa Code section 261.130 and this rule.

283—23.5(261) Determination of programs of study aligned with high-demand jobs.

23.5(1) Statewide high-demand jobs. First, 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. Programs aligned with new statewide high-demand jobs will be added to the list of eligible programs to the extent that funding allows. After consideration of additional programs under 23.5(2), and to the extent that funding allows, the commission will utilize the department of workforce development’s most recent list of high-demand occupations that meet the growth thresholds in Iowa Code section 84A.1B(14), but do not meet the wage threshold, and align those jobs to eligible programs of study.

23.5(2) Regional high-demand jobs. The commission will request submissions of regional high-demand jobs that align with eligible programs of study if funding allows. The Iowa community college must conduct a regional skills gap analysis and provide the corresponding documentation to the commission.

23.5(3) Eligible programs of study. All programs of study that are identified as career and technical education programs by the Iowa department of education will be considered. The classification of instructional program code and the standard occupation code will be used to align eligible programs of study to high-demand jobs. The commission may limit the number of eligible programs of study if funding is not sufficient to award all eligible applicants.

23.5(4) Grandfather clause. If a high-demand job is removed from eligibility, students who received an award based on their enrollment in a program of study aligned with the removed high-demand job in the previous year can continue to qualify for the award if they remain enrolled in the same program of study and continuously enroll each consecutive fall and spring semester, or the equivalent.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 261.

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

METRICS

Total number of rules repealed:	0
Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation	23
Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation	12

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