# State Financial Aid Webcast

Leah Smalley Student Financial Aid Programs June 9, 2020









## Reminders & Updates

- The Educational Aide Exemption (EAE) Program application and FAQs are **now available**.
- Financial Aid Database Cycle Two will open June 22, 2020.
- The deadline to submit the 2018-19 Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Engagement Report has been extended to June 30, 2020.
- Authority to transfer is still available for 2019-20 to move funding from state grants to TCWS or WSMP until **July 1, 2020.**
- This year the annual update of the Net Price Calculator will occur **Sept. 1**, **2020**. Guidance will be released in the coming months.

## Training

- Online Loan Reporting Coming soon
- Monthly Webcast July 14, 2020

## Contact Us

- Toll-free numbers are still unavailable.
- Send questions to <u>CONTACT US</u> and select "Financial Aid" as the Contact Reason.
- New domain name highered.texas.gov



# 2020-21 Program Guidelines & Resources



# **Bilingual Education Program Guidelines**

The following institutions are eligible to participate in the Bilingual Education Program:

- University of North Texas
- University of North Texas at Dallas
- Texas Woman's University
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- Texas A&M Commerce
- DFW Tech Teach, in consultation with Texas Tech University

60×30TX Plan, Pay, & Complete College -	Institution		
Public Community, Technical, & State Colleges	Wo		
Public Universities & Health-Related Institutions	<b>TEXA</b>		
Private Postsecondary Institutions	• <u>F</u> • <u>F</u> • F		
Institutional Grant Opportunities	Grants		
Funding & Facilities			
Governing Board Member Training	WOR		
Student Financial Aid Programs	• <u>F</u>		
Stay Connected	• E		
Program Resources	DTI T		
Exemptions and Waivers			
Grant Programs	•		
Loan Programs	• []		
Tuition Set Asides	• <u>E</u>		

## 2020-21 Program Guidelines Bilingual Education Program



Student Financial Aid Programs Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



## Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP)

2020-21 Program Guidelines Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP)



Division of College Readiness and Success Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



## PROGRAM AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP) is authorized by <u>TEC Chapter 56</u>, <u>Subchapter E</u>, <u>Section 56.079</u>. Rules establishing procedures to administer the program can be found in <u>Title 19 of the TAC</u>, <u>Chapter 4</u>, <u>Subchapter J</u>. The purpose of the mentorship program is to provide employment to eligible students with financial need to mentor, tutor, or advise students at participating institutions of higher education or high school students within local school districts and nonprofit organizations. The primary goal of the program is to improve student access, success, and completion of higher education. These student mentorship positions are funded by a combination of state appropriations provided by the Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) Program and matching funds from participating institutions.

**NOTE:** Administrative rules for this program are being updated and will be moved to <u>Title 19 of the TAC, Chapter 22,</u> <u>Subchapter G</u> in 2020.



## **PROGRAM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

### INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS

To participate, an eligible institution must establish a Work-Study Student Mentorship Program designed to improve student access, success, and completion of higher education. Programs must be structured to offer on-campus or offcampus mentoring, tutoring, or advising services. Institutions implementing programs **on-campus** should make every effort to incorporate services to underrepresented students.

Institutions that implement an **off-campus** program to serve local high school students must partner with school districts and nonprofit organizations through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU agreement details the roles and responsibilities of each participating entity and must be in place prior to program implementation. The institution must provide a copy of the MOU to the THECE (sample MOU).

Each Work-Study Student Mentorship Program must provide the following:

- Part-time employment to eligible students as mentors, tutors, or advisors
  - o Salary requirements:
    - Minimum of \$10 an hour
  - Maximum of 20 hours per week
- Training as determined by the THECB
- Program oversight
- Matching funds, including partner match (see Required Matching section)

#### SAMPLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Between (Name of Institution) and (Name of Independent School District)

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") is made and entered into by and between the Institution (hereinafter referred to as "College"), and Independent School District, (hereinafter ISD), pursuant to the authority granted in compliance with section 56.079 (d) of the Texas Education Code.

WHEREAS, the parties to this MOU desire to jointly participate in a work study mentorship program to; (1) mentor high school students at the ISD; (2) counsel high school students at the GO Centers or similar high school-based recruiting centers designed to improve student access to higher education; or (3) support student interventions at the College that are focused on increasing completion of degrees or certificates.

#### Both parties shall:

- Work to meet the goals of 60x30TX plan;
- · Inform the other party of any scheduling changes that may impact service delivery;
- · Develop a method of communicating needs and challenges;
- Comply throughout the duration of this MOU with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g, and the implementing federal regulations, 34 CFR Part 99, FERPA compliance includes each party (1) protecting any confidential student information it receives or accesses that could make a student's identity traceable, and (2) ensuring that any data analysis or report shall not be disclosed to any third party without THECB's prior written consent; and
- Collaborate to encourage students to pursue post-secondary education.

#### The College shall:

- Assign Work-Study Student Mentors for the academic year to designated high school organizations to promote college awareness and participation among students and parents;
- Train mentors, tutors, or advisors on how to spread the college-going message among students and parents;
- · Recruit, screen, deploy, and monitor the work of the mentors, tutors, or advisors;
- Train the sponsor and other ISD personnel on the Work-Study Student Mentorship Program;
- Ensure mentors, tutors, or advisors complete and pass a criminal background check prior to working and/or interacting with any students; and
- Monitor the activities of the program and report program progress to the THECB.



## ALERT: These program administration areas are

- State Priority Deadline
- Selective Service Statement
- Calculating Award Amounts
- Award Adjustments
- Over Awards

## STATE PRIORITY DEADLINE

The THECB provides a uniform priority deadline (TEC, Section 56.008 and 19 TAC, Section 22.6) for applications that qualify for state-funded financial assistance in an academic year. General Academic Teaching Institutions (GATIs) in Texas (including Lamar State College-Orange and Lamar State College-Port Arthur), as defined in TEC, Section 61.003(3), must publicize and use January 15 as the state priority deadline for



## **Selective Service Statement**

## Effective April 6, 2020:

## When is the statement NOT required?

- NEW When the Selective Service registration is confirmed through the <u>SSS.gov website</u>: The institution can save the confirmation directly from the website to serve as the student's official, signed statement on record.
- NEW When the ISIR confirms that a student is under the age of 18: No statement or documentation is needed for the applicable award year, even if the student turns 18 during that year.

### SELECTIVE SERVICE STATEMENT

Male students must be registered with or exempt from Selective Service (SS) in order to be eligible to receive federal or state financial assistance. In accordance with <u>TEC</u>, <u>Section</u> <u>51.9095</u>, male students must file the required <u>Selective Service</u> Statement of Registration Status (found below) with their institution or other entity granting or guaranteeing financial assistance. This includes grants, scholarships, loans, or other assistance funded by state revenue, including federal funds or gifts and grants accepted by the state.

#### When is the statement NOT Required?

- When the SS registration is confirmed through the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR): The ISIR confirmation serves as the student's official, signed statement because the Department of Education validates registration directly with the Selective Service System (SSS).
- NEW When the SS registration is confirmed through the <u>SSS.gov website</u>: The institution can save the confirmation directly from the website to serve as the student's official, signed statement on record.
- NEW When the ISIR confirms that a student is under the age of 18: No statement or documentation is needed for the applicable award year, even if the student turns 18 during that year.

#### When is the statement REQUIRED, including all supporting documentation?

- When the student completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but is flagged "not registered" on the ISIR and SS status cannot be confirmed on the <u>SSS.gov website</u>.
- NEW When the student completes a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA): The required statement is embedded in the 2020-21 TASFA and must be completed by the student.
- NEW When the student does not complete a FAFSA or TASFA but applies for state financial aid, such as through exemptions or waivers, and SS status cannot be confirmed on the <u>SSS.gov website</u>.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### FREQUENCY COLLECTING THE STATEMENT

STATEMENT If the student's status will NOT change, the statement and supporting documentation can be used for subsequent semesters. (Example: The student entered the U.S. after the eligible age to register.)

If the student's status is temporary, the statement must be collected each academic year until the student is registered or determined exempt. (Example: Student is under age 18 but did not complete a FAFSA or TASFA.)

#### RETENTION SCHEDULE

The status statement and all documentation must be retained in the student's record for 7 years after the date of completion of the award period (<u>TEC, Section 441.1855</u>).

#### REPROCESSED ISIRS

If the student's most recent ISIR transaction has been reprocessed by the Central Processing System (CPS) and the registration with the SSS was confirmed, the institution does not need to collect the status statement or any documentation.

Institutions may collect the required status statement and documentation either electronically or on paper. (English Statement or Spanish Statement)



## **Selective Service Statement**

## When is the statement REQUIRED?

- NEW When the student completes a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA): The required statement is embedded in the 2020-21 TASFA and must be completed by the student.
- **NEW** When the student does not complete a FAFSA or TASFA but applies for state financial aid and SS status **cannot** be confirmed on the SSS.gov website.

### SELECTIVE SERVICE STATEMENT

Male students must be registered with or exempt from Selective Service (SS) in order to be eligible to receive federal or state financial assistance. In accordance with <u>TEC, Section</u> <u>51.9095</u>, male students must file the required **Selective Service Statement of Registration Status** (found below) with their institution or other entity granting or guaranteeing financial assistance. This includes grants, scholarships, loans, or other assistance funded by state revenue, including federal funds or gifts and grants accepted by the state.

### When is the statement NOT Required?

- When the SS registration is confirmed through the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR): The ISIR confirmation serves as the student's official, signed statement because the Department of Education validates registration directly with the Selective Service System (SSS).
- NEW When the SS registration is confirmed through the <u>SSS.gov website</u>: The institution can save the confirmation directly from the website to serve as the student's official, signed statement on record.
- NEW When the ISIR confirms that a student is under the age of 18: No statement or documentation is needed for the applicable award year, even if the student turns 18 during that year.

### When is the statement REQUIRED, including all supporting documentation?

- When the student completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but is flagged "not registered" on the ISIR and SS status cannot be confirmed on the <u>SSS.gov website</u>.
- NEW When the student completes a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA): The required statement is embedded in the 2020-21 TASFA and must be completed by the student.
- NEW When the student does not complete a FAFSA or TASFA but applies for state financial aid, such as through exemptions or waivers, and SS status cannot be confirmed on the <u>SSS.gov website</u>.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## FREQUENCY COLLECTING THE STATEMENT

If the student's status will NOT change, the statement and supporting documentation can be used for subsequent semesters. (Example: The student entered the U.S. after the eligible age to register.)

If the student's status is temporary, the statement must be collected each academic year until the student is registered or determined exempt. (Example: Student is under age 18 but did not complete a FAFSA or TASFA.)

### RETENTION SCHEDULE

The status statement and all documentation must be retained in the student's record for 7 years after the date of completion of the award period (<u>TEC, Section 441.1855</u>).

### REPROCESSED ISIRS

If the student's most recent ISIR transaction has been reprocessed by the Central Processing System (CPS) and the registration with the SSS was confirmed, the institution does not need to collect the status statement or any documentation.

Institutions may collect the required status statement and documentation either electronically or on paper. (English Statement or Spanish Statement)



## **Selective Service – Fillable Form**

## Institutions may collect the required status statement and documentation either electronically or on paper.

(English Statement or Spanish Statement)

### SELECTIVE SERVICE STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION STATUS

Male students must verify their current Selective Service registration status by marking one of the statements below and providing proof of their registration status to their current institution. Failure to do so may result in the loss of eligibility for state financial aid.

I am under the age of 18 and not currently required to register.

, nereby certify that the				
I,, hereby certify that the Selective Service status statement provided above is true and accurate.				
I am over the age of 18. I am not registered with Selective Service and I am not exempt from registration with Selective Service.				
<b>NOTE</b> : Proof is required to be considered eligible for financial aid.	<b>NOTE</b> : Proof is required to be considered eligible for financial aid.			
□ I will submit proof of my registration.	I will submit proof of my exemption.			
Proof of registration is included with this statement.	Proof of my exemption is included with this statement.			
I have already submitted proof of registration to my current institution.	I have already submitted proof of my exemption to my current institution.			
Check the following box that applies:	Check the following box that applies:			
I am REGISTERED with the Selective Service and,	I am EXEMPT from registration and,			



## NEW Texas Administrative Code, Section 22.11

## AWARD ADJUSTMENTS

Institutions may be required to make award adjustments in the following circumstances (see NEW 19 TAC, Section 22.11):

- Student officially withdraws from enrollment.
  - o The institution will use the general refund policy to determine the amount of financial aid to be reduced.
  - A refund is not owed to the program if a student drops or withdraws after the end of an institution's refund period.
- Student's disbursement exceeds his/her eligibility amount.
  - o Recalculate eligibility amount.

**NOTE:** If funds are available after an award has been adjusted, they can be re-awarded to other eligible students at the institution. If the funds cannot be re-awarded, they must be returned to the THECB based on the <u>Timely Distribution of</u> Funds.

## **OVER AWARDS**

If an award has been disbursed and a student receives other assistance that exceeds the student's financial need, the institution is **not** required to adjust the award unless the sum of the excess resources is greater than \$300 (see NEW 19 TAC, Section 22.11(d)).



## **REQUIRED MATCHING**

Participating institutions must provide at least a 10 percent match of a WSMP-employed student's wages. In addition, institutions are required to fund 100 percent of a student's employee benefits. Institutional funds used for the wage match and employee benefits must come from sources other than federal college work-study.

Institutions that are eligible for Title III funds from the U.S. Department of Education are exempt from all matching requirements for the WSMP. To qualify for this exemption, institutions must submit a current copy of the Title III eligibility letter to the THECB.

NEW ALERT: School district and nonprofit partners must contribute matching funds (either cash or in-kind) that are at least equal to the amount of the institution's contribution. The amount will be determined within the MOU with the participating WSMP institution. The school district and nonprofit partners must provide documentation of their matching funds to the institution.

**IMPORTANT:** School district and nonprofit partners are **exempt** from the matching requirements if the participating WSMP institution is exempt from the 10 percent match of a WSMP-employed student's wages.



# WSMP – Reporting & Templates

Financial Report and Annual Data Report		
Report	Reporting Period	Due Date
Financial Report	September 1 - May 31, 2021	June 5, 2021
<ul> <li>Financial Report</li> <li>Data Report         <ul> <li>Program Overview</li> <li>Program Activities</li> <li>Persistence Data</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	September 1 - August 31, 2021	September 5, 2021

AVAILABLE FORMS		
	Financial Report Template	
	Data Report Template	



## **Foster Care Fact Sheet**

60×30TX Plan, Pay, & Complete College -	Institutional Resources & Programs - Data & Reports - Legislative & Media Resources		
Public Community, Technical, & State Colleges	Exemptions and Waivers		
Public Universities & Health-Related Institutions	CHILDREN OF DISABLED OR DECEASED FIREFIGHTERS AND LAW OFFICERS		
Private Postsecondary Institutions	Children of Disabled or Deceased Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers Guidelines [F     Eligibility Determination Form [PDF] EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN SURVIVORS		
Institutional Grant Opportunities			
Funding & Facilities	Education Benefits for Certain Survivors Guidelines [PDF]		
Governing Board Member Training	EDUCATIONAL AIDE EXEMPTION (EAE) • FY 2021 EAE Guidelines [PDF]		
Student Financial Aid Programs	FY 2020 EAE Allocations [PDE]     FY 2020 EAE Guidelines [PDE]		
Stay Connected	FY 2091 EAE Allocations [PDF]     FY 2019 EAE Guidelines [PDF]		
Program Resources	FY 2020 EAE Funds Request Form [PDF]     EAE Funds Request Instructions [PDF]		
Exemptions and Waivers	2019-20 EAE Application [PDF]     Institution Educational Aide Exemption FAQ [PDF]     Content Educational Aide Exemption FAQ [PDF]		
Grant Programs	Student Educational Aide Exemption FAQ [PDF] FIREFIGHTERS ENROLLED IN FIRE SCIENCE COURSES		
Loan Programs	Fire Fighters Enrolled in Fire Science Courses Guidelines [PDF]		
Tuition Set Asides	FOSTER CARE EXEMPTION		
Work-Study & Scholarships	Eoster Care Exemption Fact Sheet		

## Foster Care Exemption Fact Sheet

Fact Sheets highlight specific requirements in the Texas Education Code (TEC) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) in order to assist institutions with the administration of programs.

#### Purpose

To encourage foster youth currently or formerly under the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and those adopted from DFPS to pursue a higher education by providing eligible students free tuition at state-supported colleges or universities.

#### Eligibility Determination

Students are determined eligible by DFPS after requesting Form 1810: DFPS Verification of the State College Tuition and Fee Waiver. The form is processed by either DFPS Adoption Eligibility or Preparation for Adult Living staff.

NOTE: Once DFPS confirms eligibility for the exemption, students are able to receive the exemption indefinitely.

#### Eligible Courses

Any course for which an institution receives formula funding is eligible (<u>TEC, Section 54.2002</u>), including dual credit courses.

Formula funding is defined as the method used to allocate appropriated sources of funds. Formula-funded courses are those that do not depend solely on student tuition and fees to cover their costs.

#### Enrollment Eligibility

To apply for the exemption, eligible students must:

- Enroll as an undergraduate or in a dual credit course or other course for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit at a public institution of higher education in Texas as defined in <u>TEC\_Section 61.003(6)</u> before the age of 25<sup>4</sup>.
   Request Form 1810 from DFPS.
- Request Form 1810 from DF

INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCE

#### Transfer Eligibility

For each institution a student chooses to attend, a new Form 1810 must be requested from DFPS and then submitted to the institution.

#### Award Amount

The student may be awarded tuition and all fees authorized by <u>TEC, Chapter 54</u> (such as lab fees) for any eligible course attempted.

#### Resources

- <u>TEC, Section 54.366</u>—Students Under Conservatorship of DFPS
- <u>TEC, Section 54.367</u>—Adopted Students Formerly in Foster Care
- <u>40 TAC, Section 700.1630</u>—Tuition and Fee Waiver for Youth Returning to a Parent

## <u>60×30TX</u>

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

### Understanding the FACTS

#### Eligible students:

- Are not required to be Texas residents when awarded, as long as they meet the DFPS program requirements.
- Are not required to demonstrate financial need.
- Must be registered with Selective Service, or be exempt.
- Must meet the enrollment eligibility requirements before the age of 25<sup>\*</sup>. However, students are not required to receive the exemption before the age of 25.
- Can continue receiving the exemption even if they are not meeting the institution's grade point average (GPA) requirement, as long as they are meeting institutional registration requirements.
- Can continue receiving the exemption even if they are enrolled in excessive hours (TEC, Section 54.014).
- Who meet the enrollment eligibility requirements can receive the exemption while attempting any program of study offered at an eligible institution (i.e., undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral degree).

### Understanding the PROCESS

- 1. Student is admitted at an eligible institution.
- 2. Student requests a tuition exemption approval letter (Form 1810) from DFPS staff.
- DFPS staff issues Form 1810 to the student by mail or email, confirming the student's program eligibility at the relevant institution.
- 4. Eligible student submits Form 1810 to the institution.
- 5. Institution verifies enrollment eligibility.
- Institution verifies each year that the student remains eligible. (Student does not have to reapply each year.)

#### \*Adopted students who were the subject of an adoption assistance agreement may enroll in an institution at any age.



# **Educational Aide Exemption (EAE) Resources**

## Now Available on:

- College for All Texans
- Student Financial Aid Programs webpage



### Educational Aide Exemption Program Frequently Asked Questions

4. Are there a certain number of hours in which the

No. The EAE award amount is based on the tuition and required fees for formula-funded (tax-supported) hours

NOTE: Formula funding is defined as the method used

courses are those that do not depend solely on student

No. Educational Aide Exemptions are awarded based

on an applicant's eligibility, the availability of funds,

and institution participation in the EAE program.

6. Do Texas private or independent institutions of

community colleges and public universities in Texas.

Yes. Any applicant employed in some capacity by a

school district in Texas can apply, including a school

Educational Aide work experience and is enrolled in

academic progress requirements in the fall, is he

standards of the institution in the fall to be eligible for

No. Applicants must meet the academic progress

bus driver, if the applicant has the required

8. If an applicant did not meet satisfactory

the spring term, unless granted a hardship.

or she eligible for a spring award?

No. The EAE program is only for eligible public

7. Are all Texas public school district employees

the applicant is enrolled in. (TEC, Section 54.2002)

to allocate appropriated sources of funds among

institutions of higher education. Formula-funded

applicant must be enrolled?

tuition and fees to cover their costs.

higher education participate?

eligible to participate?

eligible courses

5. Do all applicants receive the exemption?

r Education Co-ordinating Board

#### Student Edition

The Educational Aide Exemption (EAE) Program encourages educational aides to complete full teacher certification (<u>Ease</u> <u>Administrative Code</u>, 21, 1080). Recipients are exempt from the payment of tuition and certain mandatory fees at participating Texas public institutions of higher education. Each term, applicants must complete and submit a separate EAE application to the Financial Aid Office.

#### 1. What is the definition of the term Educational Aide for program eligibility?

An Educational Aide is a person who:

- Has been employed by a public school district in Texas in a teaching capacity, working in the classroom directly with the students on a fulltime basis for at least one school year, within the last five years from the term or semester of the applicant's initial award; OR
- Has worked 180 or more full days as a substitute teacher at a public school district in Texas in a teaching capacity, working in the classroom directly with the students, within the last five years from the term or semester of the applicant's initial award.

2. What subjects are eligible for this exemption?

In accordance with <u>19 TAC. Section 21.1083(a)(6)</u>, applicants must be enrolled in courses required for teacher certification in one or more subject areas determined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to be experiencing a critical shortage<sup>®</sup> of teachers at public schools in Texas.

\*The <u>Critical Shortage Subject Areas</u> are published annually on the TEA website.

3. What are the program requirements outside of employment?

In addition to having the required Educational Aide work experience and being enrolled in eligible courses, the applicant must also be classified as a Texas resident, demonstrate financial need, be registered for Selective Service or be exempt, and currently be employed in some capacity by a public school district in Texas for the full term in which the applicant is awarded.

#### Educational Aide Exemption Program FAQs - Student Edition

As of 6/8/2020 1 | P a g e



# **Contact Information and Feedback**

# Email:leah.smalley@highered.texas.govvanessa.malo@highered.texas.gov

Webcast Survey: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/58YRM92">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/58YRM92</a>

**Contact Us:** <u>https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/Apps/CRAFT/Home/Create</u> (select "Financial Aid Question" under Contact Reason).





