

# TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (TASSP)

## TEXAS EDUCATION CODE: CHAPTER 61, SUBCHAPTER FF

Sec. 61.9771. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT. (a) The board shall establish and administer, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program under which the board provides an annual conditional scholarship to a student who meets the eligibility criteria prescribed by Section [61.9772](#) and is appointed to receive a scholarship.

(b) The amount of a scholarship under this subchapter in an academic year is the lesser of:

(1) \$15,000; or

(2) the amount available for each scholarship from appropriations that may be used for scholarships under this subchapter for that academic year.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1326 (H.B. [3452](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 61.9772. ELIGIBILITY; NOMINATION AND SELECTION. (a) To receive an initial scholarship under this subchapter, a student must:

(1) be enrolled in a public or private institution of higher education in this state;

(2) enroll in and be a member in good standing of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program or another undergraduate officer commissioning program such as the United States Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class while enrolled in a public or private institution of higher education in this state;

(3) be appointed to receive a scholarship by the governor, the lieutenant governor, a state senator, or a state representative; and

(4) enter into an agreement with the board under Section [61.9773](#).

(b) In each year, the governor and the lieutenant governor may each appoint two students and two alternates and each state senator and each state representative may appoint one student and one alternate to receive an initial scholarship under this subchapter. If a student appointed under this subsection to receive a scholarship fails to initially meet eligibility or otherwise meet the requirements to initially receive the scholarship, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must notify the alternate on file of their nomination.

(c) For a student to continue to receive a scholarship awarded under this subchapter, the student must maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the board.

(d) If the board determines that a student appointed under Subsection (b) to receive an initial scholarship under this subchapter has failed to maintain eligibility or otherwise meet the requirements to continue receiving the scholarship, beginning with the academic year following the determination, the elected official who appointed the student may appoint another eligible student under this subchapter to receive any available funds designated for the student who no longer meets the requirements for the scholarship.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1326 (H.B. [3452](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 351 (H.B. [3470](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 230 (H.B. [66](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2018.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 251 (H.B. [1117](#)), Sec. 1, eff. May 29, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 517 (S.B. [49](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 61.9773. AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) To receive a scholarship under this subchapter, a student must enter into an agreement with the board as provided by this section. The agreement must require the student to:

- (1) complete four years of ROTC training or complete another undergraduate officer commissioning program such as the United States Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class;
- (2) graduate not later than six years after the date the student first enrolls in a public or private institution of higher education in this state;
- (3) after graduation, enter into:
  - (A) a four-year commitment to be a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast Guard, or United States Merchant Marine; or
  - (B) a contract to serve as a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States;
- (4) meet the physical examination requirements and all other prescreening requirements of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast Guard, or United States Merchant Marine or the branch of the armed services with which the student enters into a contract; and
- (5) agree to repay the scholarship if the student:
  - (A) fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress;
  - (B) withdraws from the scholarship program; or
  - (C) fails to fulfill a commitment or contract described by Subdivision (3).

(b) The board shall adopt rules to exempt a student from the repayment of a scholarship under an agreement entered into under this section if the student is unable to meet the obligations of the agreement solely as a result of physical inability.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1326 (H.B. [3452](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 351 (H.B. [3470](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 251 (H.B. [1117](#)), Sec. 2, eff. May 29, 2017.

Sec. 61.9774. RULES. The board shall adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this subchapter, including rules regarding the eligibility criteria and the selection of scholarship recipients.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1326 (H.B. [3452](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 351 (H.B. [3470](#)), Sec. 3, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 61.9775. LIMITATIONS ON SCHOLARSHIP. (a) A person may not receive a scholarship under this subchapter after earning a cumulative total of 150 credit hours or after being awarded a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first.

(b) A scholarship awarded to a student under this subchapter shall be reduced for an academic year by the amount by which the full amount of the scholarship plus the total amount to be paid to the student for being under contract with one of the branches of the armed services of the United States exceeds the student's total cost of attendance for that academic year at the public or private institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1326 (H.B. [3452](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 351 (H.B. [3470](#)), Sec. 3, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 61.9776. FUNDING. The board shall administer this subchapter using available appropriations and gifts, grants, and donations made for the purposes of this subchapter.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1326 (H.B. [3452](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.