

INFORMATION
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HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #15-10

UPDATE ON TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (TES)



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October 15, 2014

(Copy of email sent to interested parties on 10/15/14)

Hello all.

Attached is my draft of a five-page summary doc on the new TES scholarship program.

I wanted to create a document that would fully explain the program; one that would answer questions from high schools and other affected parties. The attached document is a little longer than I had hoped, but it seemed worth it to me to have it be complete.

I will be sharing this with the HEAB Board in a few minutes. The next meeting of the HEAB Board is Friday, October 24 at 9:00 AM here in Madison. Our plan for the new TES program will be on the agenda.

The document does have some sections in red. These lines indicate places and points on which I don't think our group discussion provided me with specific direction; I saw a need to answer some questions and included the best answers we could come up with, in this draft, in red letters.

Perhaps the one red item I want to point out is the date on which I state that school districts creating their own policies for ranking eligible students, submit their policies to HEAB for approval.

Sherrie Nelson and I find that precedent in the AES program indicates that HEAB the agency, rather than HEAB the board, can approve such policies. That is our best conclusion and as a result, I feel that we can accept school-district policies for consideration up until February 1, 2015. I am sure this issue will be part of discussion at the HEAB Board meeting next week.

Obviously we will have to work on rapid turnaround on these policies. In addition, HEAB is offering to work with school districts who are considering drafting their own ranking system, in an effort to prevent surprises at the last minute. Given the timeframe, I think this is a workable way to allow districts as much time as possible to craft their own ranking system if they choose to do so.

So: Please read this carefully and see if I have used the appropriate terms of art as indicated by our discussions, and consider whether any changes should be made to this document.

Thank you once again for your participation, input, and assistance with this effort.

John

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TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (TES)

October 2014 DRAFT

Beginning in 2015, Technical Excellence Scholarships are to be awarded to Wisconsin high school seniors who have the highest demonstrated level of proficiency in technical education subjects. The number of scholarships each high school is eligible for is based on total student enrollment.

The scholarships are only for use at a Wisconsin Technical College within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) located within the state. No student may receive both a TES and an AES scholarship.

In order to receive a TES scholarship, a student must be enrolled on a full-time basis by September 30th of the academic year following the academic year in which he or she was designated as a scholar, at a participating Wisconsin Technical College in the state. (Recipients of TES scholarships may wait to claim the scholarship for one year after high school graduation.)

The value of the scholarship is up to \$2,250 per year, to be applied towards tuition. Half of the scholarship is funded by the state, while the other half is matched by the institution.

Eligibility for the TES scholarship does not exceed 6 semesters, or a total of three years. Semesters are defined as fall or spring semesters, not summer sessions or other shorter sessions.

The new TES scholarship program is to begin awarding scholarships in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Nominees to the program are to be selected by each school board of a school district operating one or more high schools, and each governing body of a private high school or tribal high school. (For schools with enrollments under 80, the process contains special steps.)

Act 60 requires the school districts to designate scholars for the program to HEAB by February 25 of each year, beginning in 2015.

TES scholarships are allocated to high schools under a formula identical to that used for the Academic Excellence Scholarship (AES) program; schools awarding AES scholarships will be able to award the same number of TES scholarships.

1. Eligibility criteria for candidates:

HEAB defines an eligible candidate for a TES scholarship to include high school seniors meeting the following criteria.

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- A. In order to be eligible for nomination to a TES scholarship, a student must exhibit interest in and planning for a technical career.
- Prior to September 1, 2017 a student's school counselor or principal must affirm that the student has post-secondary plans related to a career in technical education. (This affirmation will be made in the nomination form for TES.)
 - Beginning on September 1, 2017 a student must have an academic and career plan leading to a career in technical education. (This requirement refers to the academic and career plans required under s.115.28 (59).) **This is the "2013 Act 59" language referred to in discussions at HEAB**
- B. In addition, in order to be eligible for a TES scholarship, a student must also have completed at least one of the following eight eligibility items. Students awarded a TES scholarship must have:
- i. Be a CTE Concentrator completer, which is a student who has completed at least three (3) high school CTE courses (career and technical education courses) in program area(s) leading to a degree or diploma in the student's chosen pathway.
 - A student may be enrolled in (rather than have completed) the third course at the time of their nomination for TES.
 - The definition of "CTE course" is to be **that definition approved by the board of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, P.L. 190-270 "Perkins IV", which is: a secondary-level course offered through the DPI-recognized program areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, Business and Information Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science Education, Health Science Education, Marketing Education, or Technology and Engineering Education; such courses must be taught by a CTE instructor licensed for that specific discipline, except that courses in Health Science Education may also be taught by a health education instructor and/or a science licensed instructor.**
 - ii. Participated in a Youth Apprenticeship Program under the supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) (see https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/youthapprenticeship/program_info.htm)
 - iii. Participated in a Technical High School Diploma program as certified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) (see http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_tehsd)
 - iv. Participated in a Career and Technical Training pathway as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) (see http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_clustersandpaths)
 - v. Participated in a Skills Standards Program offered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) (see http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_cteskills)
 - vi. Completed (or be on track to complete) an industry-recognized certification program approved under Wis. Stats. 115.367 (2). (This requirement is created under [2013 Wisconsin Act 59](#)).

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- vii. Participated in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) in Wisconsin: DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, or SkillsUSA (see http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_ctso)
- viii. Completed a technical training program for high school students if the program is offered by a UW System school, a Wisconsin Technical College System school, a tribal college in Wisconsin, or a private nonprofit college or university located in Wisconsin. **Examples include but are not limited to:**
- Medical College of Wisconsin Summer Enrichment Programs [link](#)
 - UW-Madison's Summer Science Institute at WIScience [link](#)
 - Marquette University's K-12 Engineering Academies [link](#)
 - MSOE summer programs for K-12 students [link](#)

The program must be offered BY a Wisconsin colleges or university; programs held at these campuses but offered by others are not eligible. (Such programs are usually of shorter duration.)

NOTES:

The TES nomination form will ask districts to list each of the eligibility categories met by a student being nominated.

The TES nomination form will require schools to indicate the number of credit hours (if any) earned by a student in connection with the programs and

2. Ranking of eligible candidates:

Act 60 requires that nomination for TES scholarships be made by school districts for the student (or students) who has the highest level of proficiency in technical education subjects.

This standard seems to indicate a need for eligible students to be ranked for technical proficiency, in order to create as clear and uniform a standard as possible for determining which student has the highest proficiency. "Ranked" is conceived by HEAB to mean a clear, ordinal, "first-second-third" system whenever possible.

The TES nomination form will ask whether the district selected students for their TES rankings based on their own ranking system, or based upon the ranking system prepared by HEAB.

a. HEAB-recommended ranking system for TES-eligible students

HEAB has created a point system to rank eligible candidates within each high school, and recommends this system to school districts. Districts choosing to use this recommended system do not have to seek approval for the ranking system from HEAB.

HEAB's recommended ranking system consists of ranking eligible students according to a point system reflective of course work and technical education experience. Under the recommended point system:

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- One point is given to a student for each credit-hour earned in high school in CTE courses, as defined above.
- One point is given to a student for each year of activity in a Career and Technical Student Organization in Wisconsin (http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_ctso) (For activity in multiple CTSOs, one point is to be given for each year of participation in each of the six CTSOs.)
- For the purpose of assigning a ranking among eligible candidates, credit hours in process at the time of nomination should be counted toward the number of credits the student has earned.

When students emerge from the point system with tied scores, CTE grades become the tie-breaker. Because some students may have the same credit-hours at the time of nomination, the HEAB-recommended ranking system then assigns rankings to “tied” students based on the grade point earned by eligible students in CTE courses (as defined above). The grades used for this purpose are only those grades earned in CTE courses, not a student’s overall grade point.

b. School-District-created ranking system for TES-eligible students

School districts may select an alternative system for ranking their TES-eligible students. School districts are required under Act 60 to have such ranking systems approved by their school boards and then to submit the system to HEAB for its approval.

TES nominations are due to HEAB on or before February 25, 2015, for the first year of the program. **Districts seeking approval of their own ranking systems may submit those systems to HEAB for approval not later than February 1, 2014.**

Because of the timeframe, HEAB encourages school districts considering creation of their own ranking systems, to work with HEAB staff as they consider and develop a ranking system. HEAB wants to prevent surprises and disappointments as districts proceed in the new TES program with plans to use their own ranking systems.

3. NAMING AND SELCTION OF ALTERNATES

On the TES nomination form, HEAB will ask schools to submit the names of as many alternates, as the school will award scholarships under the TES allocation formula.

For under-80 schools, schools nominating one student will also be asked to name one alternate.

4. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The TES program will ask school districts to approve the same three policies that school districts are currently asked to approve for the AES program. These policies need only be approved at the school district level; these do not need HEAB approval and do not need to be filed with HEAB.

The three policy items HEAB will ask districts to approve for TES are:

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1. Each school board of the school district, or the governing body of a private high school, shall determine, and have in writing, a policy establishing how long a student must have attended that high school to compete for the scholarship, how the student acquires senior status, and when the student is eligible to compete for the scholarship.
2. Each school board of the school district, or the governing body of a private high school, shall determine, and have in writing, a policy defining the grading system used in that high school, including whether it is weighted or unweighted, which subjects are included in the GPA on the official high school transcript, how pass-fail grades are incorporated into the GPA, how grades from study abroad or from alternative or home schools are incorporated into the GPA, and how to incorporate grades earned in another country by students with permanent resident status.
3. The faculty of each school shall determine, and have in writing, a policy that describes the tie breaking procedures and criteria used to determine the scholars and alternates and to put them in rank order.

Again, these policies need only be approved at the school district level; these do not need HEAB approval and do not need to be filed with HEAB.

5. UNDER-80 SCHOOLS

HEAB will ask for much the same information from under-80 schools for TES, as we currently ask for AES. The eligibility criteria for students applies to students at under-80 schools. As with larger schools, under-80 schools may create their own ranking system for evaluating students; as with other schools, this system must be submitted to HEAB for approval by **February 1, 2014**.

If the schools elect to use HEAB's recommended ranking system, under-80 schools are asked to submit the name of the senior with the highest point score on HEAB's recommended ranking system, as well as the GPA of that student in CTE coursework. As with AES, the GPA shall be based on a 4.000 grade point scale with the grade of "A" equaling 4.000. Grades shall be unweighted for this GPA and shall be expressed on a 4.000 scale.

The high schools shall also submit a copy of the student's high school transcript, The student's highest score and percentile ranking earned on the American College Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, or other test required by the Wisconsin institution in which the student intends to enroll; and a letter from the student indicating the reasons that the student feels qualified for the scholarship and an intent to attend, by September 30 of the year in which the student graduates from high school, a participating institution in the Wisconsin Technical College System.

The HEAB Secretary shall designate the 10 students with the highest GPAs in high schools with fewer than 80 students, as the recipients of the scholarship. In the event of a tie, the secretary shall rank students based on their grade points for coursework completed in CTE courses. In the event of a tie, the secretary shall rank students based on the scores from the American College Test, the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or other comparable tests. If a tie remains, the secretary shall rank students based on the content and quality of the students' letters.

Further details including administrative rules on TES are in process and will be announced as they emerge. For more information, please contact

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