

## CHAPTER 9

## GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

## Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-8 and 9, 18A:71B-12, 18A:71B-19, 18A:71B-23, 18A:71B-25 and 18A:71B-86.6; and Title V, Part E of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

## Source and Effective Date

R.2007 d.286, effective August 7, 2007.  
See: 39 N.J.R. 1375(a), 39 N.J.R. 3738(a).

## Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 9, Grant and Scholarship Programs, expires on August 7, 2014. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

## Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 9, Student Assistance Board, was originally codified in Title 9 as Chapter 7, Student Assistance Programs. Chapter 7, originally the State Scholarship Commission Manual, was filed and became effective pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:62-1 et seq. prior to September 1, 1969. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71-43 et seq., rules concerning the Student Assistance Board, the Tuition Aid Grant Program, and Garden State Scholars, were adopted as Emergency Rule R.1978 d.106, replacing the prior text, effective March 22, 1978. See: 10 N.J.R. 190(a). Subchapter 5, Public Tuition Benefits Program, was adopted as Emergency Rule R.1980 d.324, effective July 17, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 469(b). Subchapter 6, Garden State Graduate Fellowship Program, was adopted as R.1980 d.462, effective October 20, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 273(e), 12 N.J.R. 694(d).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 7 was readopted as R.1983 d.126, effective April 13, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 129(a), 15 N.J.R. 692(a). Originally, Subchapter 7, Veterans Tuition Credit Program, was adopted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71-71 as Emergency Rule R.1977 d.376, effective October 4, 1977, and codified at N.J.A.C. 9:2-11. See: 9 N.J.R. 521(a). An amendment was adopted as R.1981 d.449, effective November 16, 1981. See: 13 N.J.R. 572(a), 13 N.J.R. 845(c). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), N.J.A.C. 9:2-11 expired on November 21, 1984. Subsequently, the expired text of N.J.A.C. 9:2-11 was adopted as R.1986 d.103 and codified at Subchapter 7, effective April 7, 1986. See: 17 N.J.R. 2844(a), 18 N.J.R. 679(b). Subchapter 8, Vietnam Veterans Tuition Aid Program, was adopted as R.1985 d.569, effective November 4, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 1735(a), 17 N.J.R. 2645(a). Subchapter 9, originally Congressional Teacher Scholarship Program, was adopted as R.1987 d.168, effective April 6, 1987. See: 18 N.J.R. 2174(b), 19 N.J.R. 516(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 7, Student Assistance Programs, was readopted as R.1988 d.128, effective February 29, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 33(a), 20 N.J.R. 656(a). Subchapter 9 was redesignated the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program by R.1988 d.131, effective March 21, 1988. See: 19 N.J.R. 2102(a), 20 N.J.R. 663(a). An amendment to Subchapter 8 was adopted as R.1989 d.183, effective April 3, 1989. See: 20 N.J.R. 2625(a), 21 N.J.R. 899(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 7 was readopted as R.1992 d.486, effective November 6, 1992. In addition, R.1992 d.486 redesignated Subchapter 2 as General Provisions for Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship Programs, and repealed Subchapters 7 and 8, effective December 7, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 2510(a), 24 N.J.R. 4373(a).

Chapter 7, Title 9, was recodified as Chapter 9, Title 9A, by R.1995 d.428, effective August 7, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 2043(a), 27 N.J.R. 2906(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 9, Student Assistance Board, was readopted as R.1997 d.454, effective October 1, 1997. As part of R.1997 d.454, effective November 3, 1997, Subchapter 6, Garden State Graduate Fellowship Program, was repealed. See: 29 N.J.R. 2763(a), 29 N.J.R. 4679(b).

Subchapter 6, Miss New Jersey Educational Scholarship Program, was adopted as R.1998 d.416, effective August 17, 1998. See: 30 N.J.R. 2147(a), 30 N.J.R. 3033(b).

Chapter 9, Student Assistance Board, was readopted as R.2002 d.290, effective August 2, 2002. As a part of R.2002 d.290, Chapter 9, Student Assistance Board, was renamed Grant and Scholarship Programs, Subchapter 1, Student Assistance Board, was renamed Administration for State Grants and Scholarships, and Subchapter 5, Public Tuition Benefits Program, was renamed Survivor Tuition Benefits Program, effective September 3, 2002. See: 34 N.J.R. 1392(a), 34 N.J.R. 3079(c).

Subchapter 7, New Jersey World Trade Center Scholarship Program, was adopted as emergency new rules by R.2003 d.134, effective February 26, 2003. See: 35 N.J.R. 1452(a). Subchapter 7, New Jersey World Trade Center Scholarship Program, was readopted as R.2003 d.202, effective April 23, 2003. See: 35 N.J.R. 2177(a).

Subchapter 8, Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Scholarships Program, was adopted as R.2004 d.137, effective April 5, 2004. See: 35 N.J.R. 5530(a), 36 N.J.R. 1776(a).

Subchapter 10, New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program, was adopted as an emergency new rule by R.2004 d.310, effective July 14, 2004. See: 36 N.J.R. 3589(a). Subchapter 10, New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program, was readopted as R.2004 d.379, effective September 10, 2004. See: 36 N.J.R. 4466(a).

Subchapter 11, New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program, was adopted as new rules by R.2006 d.303, effective August 21, 2006. See: 38 N.J.R. 1975(a), 38 N.J.R. 3303(b).

Chapter 9, Grant and Scholarship Programs, was readopted as R.2007 d.286, effective August 7, 2007. As a part of R.2007 d.286, Subchapter 3, Tuition Aid Grant Program, was renamed Tuition Aid Grant Programs, effective September 4, 2007. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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### SUBCHAPTER 1. ADMINISTRATION FOR STATE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

#### 9A:9-1.1 Policy responsibility

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (Authority) shall develop, coordinate, and administer policies for scholarship and tuition aid programs as provided by law. The Authority shall create and adopt such rules and regulations deemed necessary for the proper administration of these programs.

Amended by R.1997 d.454, effective November 3, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2763(a), 29 N.J.R. 4679(b).

Substituted "Governor" for "Board of Higher Education".

Amended by R.2002 d.290, effective September 3, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1392(a), 34 N.J.R. 3079(c).

Amended by R.2007 d.286, effective September 4, 2007.

See: 39 N.J.R. 1375(a), 39 N.J.R. 3738(a).

Inserted "(Authority)".

**9A:9-10.2 Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Approved fees” means general fees; student service/activity fees; technology fees; and required course/equipment fees.

“Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-3.

“Eligible high school” means a public or non-public high school located in the State, or other high schools as may be deemed by the Authority to have a rigorous course of study.

“Eligible institution” means a New Jersey county college serving the student’s county of residence pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-1 et seq., except as otherwise indicated in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.8.

“Full-time enrollment” in any semester, including summer, means a course of study leading to a degree from the county college of enrollment, that includes at least 12 credit hours, not including any credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum. Full-time enrollment for a summer semester consists of the total number of credits taken during all sessions in that summer.

“NJ STARS scholar” means a student who received a scholarship under the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program, established pursuant to P.L. 2004, c. 59, or was eligible for but did not receive a scholarship under NJ STARS because the student’s tuition was fully covered by other State and Federal need based grants or merit scholarships.

“Program” or “NJ STARS” means the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program established pursuant to P.L. 2004, c. 59.

“Rigorous high school course of study” means a course of study that is in accordance with the standards established by the Commission on Higher Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.

New Rule, R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.2, General provisions, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.3.

**9A:9-10.3 General provisions**

General provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship Programs which pertain to residency set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2, noncitizens and resident aliens set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.3, award adjustments, refunds and collections set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.12, check endorsements set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.14, appeals set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.15, and accounting and auditing standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.16 shall be in effect for the New

Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.2 by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.3, Eligible institutions, repealed.

**9A:9-10.4 Eligibility requirements**

(a) A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for up to five semesters, including summers. This period of eligibility also includes any semester for which a student qualifies for the scholarship but does not receive payment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.7. In order to qualify for this scholarship, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. A student must have completed a rigorous high school course of study and graduated from high school in 2004 or later and must enroll in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey county college by the fifth semester after high school graduation;

2. Upon notice from the Authority of conditional eligibility for the Program, a student shall take a college placement test selected by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and administered by the county college in the county of the student’s school district at no cost to the student or the school district. The county colleges may enter into an agreement with the school district to administer the test at the high school or other selected site within the district.

- i. The county college shall notify any student who does not achieve the required score on the placement test that the student requires remediation prior to becoming an NJ STARS scholar. The student has the responsibility to address the identified deficiencies through such means as the student determines, including enrollment in remedial classes at the county college during the senior year of high school.

- ii. A student shall have one year from September 1 following high school graduation to demonstrate the skill levels required to pursue courses for credit at a county college. The student shall become an NJ STAR scholar eligible for five semesters of NJ STARS scholarships if during or at the end of the one-year period the student demonstrates the required ability. A student loses eligibility to become an NJ STARS Scholar if the student continues to require remediation at the end of the one-year period;

3. For the first year of enrollment, a student must have graduated in the top 15.0 percent of the student’s high school graduating class and at the time of graduation must have met, and continue to meet, all residency and citizenship requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2 and 2.3;

4. After the first year of enrollment, the scholarship shall continue to be payable to an eligible student if the student has attained a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) at the start of the student's second year of county college enrollment.

i. If an NJ STARS recipient has less than a 3.0 GPA at the start of the second semester of the first year of county college enrollment, the student shall participate in an enrichment program designed by the county college during the second semester of the student's first year of enrollment in accordance with P.L. 2005, c. 168;

5. A student must annually complete and file a financial aid application, as approved by the Authority, within established State deadlines in order to apply for all other available forms of Federal and State need-based grants and merit scholarships. This includes the student satisfying all requirements to determine his or her eligibility to receive payments of these State and Federal grants and scholarships within established State deadlines;

6. A student must maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student, illness of a member of the student's immediate family, or emergency leave because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been approved by the county college or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States. A student enrolled for less than full-time status during the summer semester shall not receive an NJ STARS award for that semester but shall maintain eligibility for the program.

i. In the final semester of county college enrollment a student may take less than 12 credits if the county college determines that the student needs less than 12 credits in that semester to complete the degree program. In order to maintain NJ STARS eligibility, the student must take at least as many credits as that student requires to complete the degree program. If the final semester falls during the summer, the student shall receive an NJ STARS award for the summer semester, as long as the student meets these requirements; and

7. A student shall not receive an NJ STARS scholarship for the sixth semester of county college enrollment but if a student enrolled in a nursing or engineering program enrolls for a sixth semester that student shall maintain eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program, established pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 359 (N.J.S.A. 18A:17B-86.1 et seq.), provided the student meets the requirements for receipt of an NJ STARS II scholarship and graduates after the sixth semester.

(b) A student is eligible to receive an NJ STARS scholarship during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

(c) A student who is eligible for an NJ STARS scholarship and who earned college credits from a higher education institutions while enrolled in high school, may submit a transcript from that institution to his or her county college. If the county college determines that the student's coursework is equivalent to that offered by the county college, then the county college shall apply the credits toward the award of the student's associate degree as an NJ STARS scholar.

(d) In the case of a student who was an NJ STARS scholar prior to the spring 2009 semester, the NJ STARS scholarship shall be administered, and the student shall remain eligible for the program in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 2004, c. 59 as the same read prior to December 19, 2008.

Amended by R.2006 d.115, effective March 20, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4498(a), 38 N.J.R. 1452(b).

Rewrote (a)3.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.6 and amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a), inserted ", including summers", and updated the N.J.A.C. reference; rewrote (a)1; added new (a)2; recodified former (a)2 through (a)5 as (a)3 through (a)6; rewrote (a)3 and the introductory paragraph of (a)6; in the introductory paragraph of (a)4, substituted a period for a semicolon at the end; in (a)4i, substituted a semicolon for a period at the end; in (a)5, substituted the first occurrence of "State deadlines" for "deadline dates", inserted "within established State deadlines", and deleted "and" from the end; added (a)6i, (a)7, (c) and (d); and in (b), substituted ", spring and summer" for "and spring". Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4, Full-time enrollment, repealed.

#### 9A:9-10.5 Academic or disciplinary dismissal

A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for an NJ STARS scholarship.

*The following annotation applies to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.5 prior to its repeal by R.2009 d.216:*

Amended by R.2004 d.379, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 3589(a), 36 N.J.R. 4466(a).

*The following annotation applies to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.5 subsequent to its recodification from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.7 by R.2009 d.216:*

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.7 by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.5, Approved fees, repealed.

#### 9A:9-10.6 Collection of overpayments, ineligible payments, or refunds

If a student participating in the program is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full all amounts received under the program. The county college shall be responsible for collecting any required repayment, or the amount of any overpayment or other ineligible payment, of any State awards under this program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-10.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.8 by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.6, Eligibility requirements, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.4.

**9A:9-10.7 Amount of the scholarship**

A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover the full cost of tuition and approved fees, subject to the prior application of other State and Federal grants and scholarships against those costs, for up to 18 credit hours in any semester for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the student's county of residence. The full amount of State and Federal need-based grants and merit scholarships received by the student shall be applied to tuition and fee charges to reduce the amount of the NJ STARS award.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.9 and amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Substituted "18" for "15", inserted the second occurrence of "State and Federal", inserted "grants" following "need-based", and deleted "grants and" following "merit". Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.7, Academic or disciplinary dismissal, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.5.

**9A:9-10.8 Out-of-county students**

An otherwise eligible student, who can demonstrate to the Authority with a letter from the New Jersey county college serving his or her county of residence, stating that it does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to study or that it cannot admit the student into the desired program of study due to lack of available space which will exist for at least one year, shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey county college offering that curriculum or program of study. The amount of any scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall be computed as though the student were a resident of the county served by that college pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:4-1.3.

Amended by R.2006 d.115, effective March 20, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4498(a), 38 N.J.R. 1452(b).

Added "or that it cannot admit the student into the desired program of study due to lack of available space which will exist for at least one year", "or program of study" and "pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:4-1.3". Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.10 by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.8, Collection of overpayments, ineligible payments, or refunds, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.6.

**9A:9-10.9 Student notification**

The Authority shall provide students with notice of conditional eligibility for an NJ STARS Scholarship in their senior year of high school. The New Jersey county college the student attends shall notify the student of final eligibility. Such notification by the county college will include the amount of the scholarship.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.11 and amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.9, Amount of the scholarship, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.7.

**9A:9-10.10 (Reserved)**

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.8 by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Section was "Out-of-county students".

**9A:9-10.11 (Reserved)**

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-10.9 by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Section was "Student notification".

## SUBCHAPTER 11. NEW JERSEY STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE REWARD SCHOLARSHIP II (NJ STARS II) PROGRAM

**9A:9-11.1 Purpose and scope**

The rules established by this subchapter provide the policies and procedures for participation in the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. This program offers scholarships to NJ STARS scholars who attain an associate degree at a New Jersey county college and are enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher education no later than the second semester immediately following the student's attainment of an associate degree.

Amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Substituted "no later than the second semester" for "in the academic year of study".

**9A:9-11.2 Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Academic year" means the period between the time the institution begins its fall semester until the end of the succeeding spring semester.

"Academic year of study" means one continuous year of study by the student beginning with the fall semester and including the succeeding spring semester or beginning with the spring semester and including the succeeding fall semester.

"Annual family income" for a dependent student means the parent and student applicant's taxable and untaxed income as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For an independent student, annual family income includes the student applicant's, and spouse's, if married, taxable and untaxed income as derived from the FAFSA.

“Approved fees” means fees charged to a student by the four-year public institution of higher education that are mandatory in pursuing his or her full-time course of study as well as fees that are mandatory for all students for attendance at that institution.

“Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-3.

“Fourth academic year of study” means the third and fourth semesters of study at a participating institution.

“Full-time course of study” means a course of study in any semester that includes at least 12 credit hours in a non-remedial or non-developmental curriculum and which leads to a baccalaureate degree from a participating institution.

“New Jersey four-year public institution of higher education” means the New Jersey State colleges, Rutgers, the State University in Camden, New Brunswick and Newark, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

“NJ STARS scholar” means a student who either received an award, or was eligible to receive an award but was non-funded during the semester immediately preceding graduation from the New Jersey county college, under the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-81 et seq.

“Non-funded” means a student who was eligible but did not receive an award under the NJ STARS Program because the student’s tuition and approved fees were fully covered by other State and Federal need-based grants or merit scholarships.

“Participating institution” means a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher education as defined above.

“Program” or “NJ STARS II” means the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II Program established pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 359.

“Third academic year of study” means the first two semesters of study at a participating institution.

Amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.  
See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Added definitions “Annual family income”, “Fourth academic year of study” and “Third academic year of study”; in definition “Full-time course of study”, deleted paragraph 1; substituted definition “ ‘Program’ or ‘NJ STARS II’ ” for definition “Program”; and in definition “ ‘Program’ or ‘NJ STARS II’ ”, deleted “(NJ STARS II)” following “Scholarship II”.

### 9A:9-11.3 General provisions

General provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship Programs, which pertain to residency set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2; noncitizens and resident aliens, set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.3; award adjustments, refunds and collections, set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.12; check endorsements, set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.14; appeals, set forth

in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.15; and accounting and auditing standards, set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.16, shall be in effect for this Program.

### 9A:9-11.4 Acceptance of academic credits and admission by a participating institution

(a) The policies and procedures established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:62-46 et seq. shall govern the transfer of academic credits awarded by a New Jersey county college to an NJ STARS scholar who subsequently enrolls in a participating institution and is participating in the NJ STARS II Program at the institution pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-86.5. The student may be required to earn additional credits to meet the requirements of his or her selected major.

(b) Nothing in the NJ STARS II Program shall be construed to require a participating institution to admit a student who is eligible for an NJ STARS II scholarship or to waive its admission standards and application procedures; except that the institution shall apply the same admission standards and application procedures that it applies to all other transfer students.

Amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.  
See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

In (a), substituted “The policies and procedures established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:62-46 et seq. shall govern the transfer of” for “A New Jersey four-year public institution of higher education shall accept all” and “a participating” for “the four-year”; and in (b), inserted “; except that the institution shall apply the same admission standards and application procedures that it applies to all other transfer students”.

### 9A:9-11.5 Eligibility requirements

(a) A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program for up to four semesters, excluding summer sessions. The student’s eligibility will be determined during the first semester of enrollment at a participating institution. In order to qualify for this scholarship, a student must:

1. Have an annual family income, both taxable and untaxed, as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid filed for the third academic year of study, of less than \$250,000;

2. Have graduated from a New Jersey county college with an associate degree as a funded or non-funded NJ STARS scholar with at least a 3.25 cumulative grade point average or was eligible for but did not receive an NJ STARS scholarship because the student was enrolled in college courses while in high school and received an associates degree with at least a 3.25 cumulative grade point average in accordance with a joint program offered by the student’s school district and a county college.

- i. An NJ STARS scholar in the second year of county college enrollment during the 2008-2009 academic year shall be required to attain at least 3.0 cumulative grade point average upon graduation from a county college;



3. Be enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree program at a participating institution no later than the second semester immediately following the student's attainment of an associate degree, unless enrollment is delayed due to the illness of the student or a member of the student's immediate family or because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency exception shall have been approved by the Authority, or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States;

4. Annually complete and file a financial aid application or renewal financial aid application, as approved by the Authority, within established State deadlines in order to apply for all other available forms of State and Federal need-based grants and merit scholarships. This includes the student satisfying all requirements within established State deadlines to determine his or her eligibility to receive payments of these State and Federal grants and scholarships at the participating institution; and

5. Maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study at a participating institution unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a member of the student's immediate family or on emergency leave because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been approved by the participating institution or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(b) Determination of the student's ineligibility for an NJ STARS II scholarship during the first semester of enrollment at a participating institution precludes the student from future eligibility for an NJ STARS II award.

Amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.  
See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Rewrote (a)1, (a)2 and (a)3; in (a)4, substituted the first occurrence of "State deadlines" for "deadline dates", and inserted "State" following "established"; and in (a)5, inserted "or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States".

#### 9A:9-11.6 Student notification

Students shall be notified of their eligibility for an NJ STARS II scholarship by the participating institution they attend.

#### 9A:9-11.7 Amount of the scholarship

(a) A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be applied toward the cost of tuition, or in the case of a student who receives a Tuition Aid Grant toward the cost of tuition and approved fees, subject to the prior application of other State and Federal grants and scholarships against such costs for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of study at a participating institution. For students who graduate

county college with a cumulative grade point average equal to or greater than 3.25 and less than 3.50 the scholarship shall equal up to \$3,000 per semester and for students who graduate county college with a cumulative grade point average equal to or greater than 3.50 the scholarship shall equal up to \$3,500 per semester. The cost of the scholarship shall be paid 50 percent by the State and 50 percent by the participating institution.

(b) The scholarship amount awarded shall be reduced by any other State and Federal need-based grants and merit scholarships to which the student is entitled. The State and Federal need-based grants and merit scholarships shall be applied to the student's tuition and approved fee charges first.

(c) Any cost of attendance that is not covered by the NJ STARS II scholarship or other available forms of grants and scholarships shall be paid by the student.

Amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.  
See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

Rewrote (a) and (c); and in (b), substituted "reduced by" for "in addition to".

#### 9A:9-11.8 Renewal of the scholarship

(a) In order for a recipient to be eligible for renewal of the NJ STARS II scholarship for the fourth academic year of study, the student must:

1. Continue to meet the eligibility requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.5(a)1, 4 and 5.

2. Have attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 by the completion of the third academic year of study. A grade for credits earned during a summer semester shall, for purposes herein, be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average for the student's first academic year of study at the participating institution.

3. The amount of the scholarship awarded for the fourth academic year of study shall be based on the student's cumulative grade point of average during the third academic year of study in accordance with N.J.A.C. 9A:9-11.7(a).

4. In the case of a student who is receiving a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program and is in the third academic year of study on December 19, 2008, the scholarship shall be administered and the student shall remain eligible for the program in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 2005, c. 359, as the same read prior to December 19, 2008.

Amended by R.2009 d.216, effective July 6, 2009.  
See: 41 N.J.R. 1139(a), 41 N.J.R. 2649(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a), substituted "fourth academic year of study" for "third and fourth semesters of enrollment at a participating institution"; in (a)2, substituted "3.25" for "3.0" and "third academic year of study" for "second semester of enrollment at the participating institution"; and added (a)3 and (a)4.

**9A:9-11.9 Academic or disciplinary dismissal**

(a) A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons from a participating institution shall no longer be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program.

(b) If a student participating in the program is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full all amounts received under the program.

1. The participating institution shall be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any overpayment or other ineligible payment, of any State awards under the program in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-10.