



Tab 13

Certification of Institutional Participation in State Student Aid Programs

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
December 9, 2020

BACKGROUND

In order to maintain eligibility to participate in state student aid programs, institutions must meet the requirements outlined in § 173.1102, RSMo, which defines approved public and approved private institutions, and 6 CSR 10-2.140 Institutional Eligibility for Student Participation. These requirements specify that an approved private institution must be a non-profit educational institution operating privately under the control of an independent board and not directly controlled or administered by any public agency or political subdivision.

Under 6 CSR 10-2.140, during a period in which an institution is certified as an approved institution, if a substantial change occurs affecting the institution's compliance with § 173.1102, RSMo, the CBHE may consider whether to terminate the institution's approved status because of the change. The CBHE may, at its own discretion, hold one or more public hearings before terminating the institution's approved status.

The board recertified Texas County Technical College's participation in the state aid programs in June 2019, effective September 2019. However, the institution has had a status change that affects its participation in the state student aid programs and requires board action.

CURRENT STATUS

The department has received information from Rouse, Frets, White, Goss, Gentile, Rhodes, P.C. that effective September 1, 2020, Texas County Technical College was purchased by the for-profit company SPC Subsidiary I, LLC, a subsidiary of Sentinel Peak Capital, LLC, which owns and operates Arizona College in Glendale, Arizona. It was previously owned by Texas County Technical Institute, Inc., a nonprofit Missouri corporation. DHEWD staff have confirmed this conversion to for-profit status with the U.S. Department of Education and with the new ownership of the school. Based on that sale, Texas County Technical College no longer meets the requirements set forth in 173.1102(2), which requires an institution operate as a non-profit in order to be an "approved private institution." Staff does not believe a public hearing is needed as there is no dispute regarding the for-profit status of the institution. This institution was certified to participate in the following programs:

- Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program
- Competitiveness Scholarship Program (Marguerite Ross Barnett Scholarship)
- Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program (Bright Flight Scholarship)
- Kids' Chance Scholarship Program
- Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program
- Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant Program

The sale of Texas County Technical College did not include its sister school, Bolivar Technical College. Bolivar Technical College continues to be owned by the non-profit Texas County Technical Institute, Inc., and therefore continues to be eligible to participate in the state student aid programs.

NEXT STEPS

In follow up to action by the Coordinating Board, the department will send formal notification of the termination to Texas County Technical College to the new ownership of the institution.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Coordinating Board for Higher Education terminate Texas County Technical College's status as an "approved private institution" ending its participation in all state student aid programs effective immediately.

NO ATTACHMENTS