

Tab 5, Attachment F

Current Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program Statute

173.1101. Citation of law – references to program. – The financial assistance program established under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107 shall be hereafter known as the "Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program." The coordinating board and all approved private, public, and virtual institutions in this state shall refer to the financial assistance program established under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107 as the access Missouri student financial assistance program in their scholarship literature, provided that no institution shall be required to revise or amend any such literature to comply with this section prior to the date such literature would otherwise be revised, amended, reprinted or replaced in the ordinary course of such institution's business.

173.1102. Definitions. – 1. As used in sections 173.1101 to 173.1107, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms mean:

(1) "Academic year," the period from July first of any year through June thirtieth of the following year;
(2) "Approved private institution," a nonprofit institution, dedicated to educational purposes, located in Missouri which:

(a) Is operated privately under the control of an independent board and not directly controlled or administered by any public agency or political subdivision;

(b) Provides a postsecondary course of instruction at least six months in length leading to or directly creditable toward a certificate or degree;

(c) Meets the standards for accreditation as determined by either the Higher Learning Commission or by other accrediting bodies recognized by the United States Department of Education or by utilizing accreditation standards applicable to nondegree-granting institutions as established by the coordinating board for higher education;

(d) Does not discriminate in the hiring of administrators, faculty and staff or in the admission of students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and is in compliance with the Federal Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 and executive orders issued pursuant thereto. Sex discrimination as used herein shall not apply to admission practices of institutions offering the enrollment limited to one sex;

(e) Permits faculty members to select textbooks without influence or pressure by any religious or sectarian source;

(3) "Approved public institution," an educational institution located in Missouri which:

(a) Is directly controlled or administered by a public agency or political subdivision;

(b) Receives appropriations directly or indirectly from the general assembly for operating expenses;

(c) Provides a postsecondary course of instruction at least six months in length leading to or directly creditable toward a degree or certificate;

(d) Meets the standards for accreditation as determined by either the Higher Learning Commission, or if a public community college created under the provisions of sections 178.370 to 178.400 meets the standards established by the coordinating board for higher education for such public community colleges, or by other accrediting bodies recognized by the United States Department of Education or by utilizing accreditation standards applicable to the institution as established by the coordinating board for higher education;

(e) Does not discriminate in the hiring of administrators, faculty and staff or in the admission of students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and is otherwise in compliance with the Federal Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 and executive orders issued pursuant thereto;

(f) Permits faculty members to select textbooks without influence or pressure by any religious or sectarian source;

(4) "Approved virtual institution," an educational institution that meets all of the following requirements:

(a) Is recognized as a qualifying institution by gubernatorial executive order, unless such order is rescinded;

(b) Is recognized as a qualifying institution through a memorandum of understanding between the state of Missouri and the approved virtual institution;

(c) Is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;

(d) Has established and continuously maintains a physical campus or location of operation within the state of Missouri;

(e) Maintains at least twenty-five full-time Missouri employees, at least one-half of which shall be faculty or administrators engaged in operations;

(f) Enrolls at least one thousand Missouri residents as degree- or certificate-seeking students;

(g) Maintains a governing body or advisory board based in Missouri with oversight of Missouri operations;

(h) Is organized as a nonprofit institution; and

(i) Utilizes an exclusively competency-based education model;

(5) "Coordinating board," the coordinating board for higher education;

(6) "Expected family contribution," the amount of money a student and family should pay toward the cost of postsecondary education as calculated by the United States Department of Education and reported on the student aid report or the institutional student information record;

(7) "Financial assistance," an amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a qualified applicant under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107;

(8) "Full-time student," an individual who is enrolled in and is carrying a sufficient number of credit hours or their equivalent at an approved private, public, or virtual institution to secure the degree or certificate toward which he or she is working in no more than the number of semesters or their equivalent normally required by that institution in the program in which the individual is enrolled. This definition shall be construed as the successor to subdivision (7) of section 173.205* for purposes of eligibility requirements of other financial assistance programs that refer to section 173.205*.

2. The failure of an approved virtual institution to continuously maintain all of the requirements in paragraphs (a) to (i) of subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section shall preclude such institution's students or applicants from being eligible for assistance under sections 173.1104 and 173.1105.

173.1103. Board to administer program, duties of the board — fund created, use of moneys. — 1. The coordinating board shall be the administrative agency for the implementation of the program established by sections 173.1101 to 173.1107. The coordinating board shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its functions and the effectuation of the purposes of sections 173.1101 to 173.1107. It shall prescribe the form and the time and method of filing applications and supervise the processing thereof. The coordinating board shall determine the criteria for eligibility of applicants and shall evaluate each applicant's expected family contribution. It shall select qualified recipients to receive financial assistance, make such awards of financial assistance to qualified recipients, and determine the manner and method of payment to the recipient.

2. The coordinating board shall determine eligibility for renewed assistance on the basis of annual applications and annual evaluations of expected family contribution. In awarding renewal grants, the coordinating board may increase or decrease the amount of financial assistance to an applicant if such action is warranted by a change in the financial condition of the applicant, the applicant's spouse or

parents, or the availability of funds for that year. As a condition to consideration for initial or renewed assistance, the coordinating board may require the applicant, the applicant's spouse and parents to execute forms of consent authorizing the director of revenue of Missouri to compare financial information submitted by the applicant with the Missouri individual income tax returns of the applicant, the applicant's spouse and parents for the taxable year immediately preceding the year for which application is made, and to report any discrepancies to the coordinating board.

3. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Access Missouri Financial Assistance Fund." The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely to provide financial assistance to qualified applicants as provided by sections 173.1101 to 173.1107. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

173.1104. Eligibility criteria for assistance — disqualification, when — allocation of assistance. — 1.

An applicant shall be eligible for initial or renewed financial assistance only if, at the time of application and throughout the period during which the applicant is receiving such assistance, the applicant:

- (1) Is a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States;
- (2) Is a resident of the state of Missouri, as determined by reference to standards promulgated by the coordinating board;
- (3) Is enrolled, or has been accepted for enrollment, as a full-time undergraduate student in an approved private, public, or virtual institution; and
- (4) Is not enrolled or does not intend to use the award to enroll in a course of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

2. If an applicant is found guilty of or pleads guilty to any criminal offense during the period of time in which the applicant is receiving financial assistance, such applicant shall not be eligible for renewal of such assistance, provided such offense would disqualify the applicant from receiving federal student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

3. Financial assistance shall be allotted for one academic year, but a recipient shall be eligible for renewed assistance until he or she has obtained a baccalaureate degree, provided such financial assistance shall not exceed a total of ten semesters or fifteen quarters or their equivalent. Standards of eligibility for renewed assistance shall be the same as for an initial award of financial assistance, except that for renewal, an applicant shall demonstrate a grade-point average of two and five-tenths on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another scale. This subsection shall be construed as the successor to section 173.215* for purposes of eligibility requirements of other financial assistance programs that refer to section 173.215*.

173.1105. Award amounts, minimums and maximums — adjustment in awards, when. — 1.

An applicant who is an undergraduate postsecondary student at an approved private, public, or virtual institution and who meets the other eligibility criteria shall be eligible for financial assistance, with a minimum and maximum award amount as follows:

- (1) For academic years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14:
 - (a) One thousand dollars maximum and three hundred dollars minimum for students attending institutions classified as part of the public two-year sector;
 - (b) Two thousand one hundred fifty dollars maximum and one thousand dollars minimum for students attending institutions classified as part of the public four-year sector, including State Technical College of Missouri; and

(c) Four thousand six hundred dollars maximum and two thousand dollars minimum for students attending approved private institutions;

(2) For the 2014-15 academic year and subsequent years:

(a) One thousand three hundred dollars maximum and three hundred dollars minimum for students attending institutions classified as part of the public two-year sector; and

(b) Two thousand eight hundred fifty dollars maximum and one thousand five hundred dollars minimum for students attending institutions classified as part of the public four-year sector, including State Technical College of Missouri, approved private institutions, or approved virtual institutions.

2. All students with an expected family contribution of twelve thousand dollars or less shall receive at least the minimum award amount for his or her institution. Maximum award amounts for an eligible student with an expected family contribution above seven thousand dollars shall be reduced by ten percent of the maximum expected family contribution for his or her increment group. Any award amount shall be reduced by the amount of a student's payment from the A+ schools program or any successor program to it. For purposes of this subsection, the term "increment group" shall mean a group organized by expected family contribution in five hundred dollar increments into which all eligible students shall be placed.

3. If appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the program as described, the maximum award shall be reduced across all sectors by the percentage of the shortfall. If appropriated funds exceed the amount necessary to fund the program, the additional funds shall be used to increase the number of recipients by raising the cutoff for the expected family contribution rather than by increasing the size of the award.

4. Every three years, beginning with academic year 2009-10, the award amount may be adjusted to increase no more than the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), 1982-1984 = 100, not seasonally adjusted, as defined and officially recorded by the United States Department of Labor, or its successor agency, for the previous academic year. The coordinating board shall prepare a report prior to the legislative session for use of the general assembly and the governor in determining budget requests which shall include the amount of funds necessary to maintain full funding of the program based on the baseline established for the program upon the effective date of sections 173.1101 to 173.1107. Any increase in the award amount shall not become effective unless an increase in the amount of money appropriated to the program necessary to cover the increase in award amount is passed by the general assembly.

173.1106. Other financial assistance to be reported to board. — If an applicant is granted financial assistance under any other student aid program, public or private, the full amount of such aid shall be reported to the coordinating board by the institution and the recipient.

173.1107. Transfer of recipient, effect of. — A recipient of financial assistance may transfer from one approved public, private, or virtual institution to another without losing eligibility for assistance under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107, but the coordinating board shall make any necessary adjustments in the amount of the award. If a recipient of financial assistance at any time is entitled to a refund of any tuition, fees, or other charges under the rules and regulations of the institution in which he or she is enrolled, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund which may be attributed to the state grant to the coordinating board. The coordinating board will use these refunds to make additional awards under the provisions of sections 173.1101 to 173.1107.