

# State Aid Advisory Committee Final Recommendations

Financial Aid Advisory Committee Members:

**Community Colleges:**

Terry Bland, Itawamba CC

Garry Jones, East Mississippi CC

**Regional Universities:**

Nicole Patrick, Mississippi University for Women

Letherio Zeigler, Mississippi Valley State University

**Research Universities**

David Williamson, University of Southern Mississippi

Laura Diven-Brown, University of Mississippi

Paul McKinney, Mississippi State University

**Private Universities**

Isabelle Higbee, Millsaps College



# Committee's Charge

- Analyze the possibility of a simplified single grant program
- Eliminate the eligibility cliffs (HELP & MESG)
- Develop a balanced program that supports needy and/or high achieving students
- Staying within the \$48 million current appropriations budget
- Have a positive impact on as many students as possible
- Provide an index that will help ensure the continued purchasing power for the grant system

# Items Considered While Developing the Final Grant

- The impact on minority students
- Student purchasing power using state aid
- Challenges to a new grant system now based on external changes
- Student needs based on two and four year college enrollment
- Stay within the budget



# Evolution of the Final Grant

- Advisory committee received data from the state aid office and started the review/development of a single grant program
- First view of single grant program presented to the Board in April 2021
- Continued to refine the new grant program based on recommendations from the Board with additional committee meetings
- Incorporated Jennifer Rogers into the discussion and received additional analysis/data/suggestions from the state aid office



# Eligibility Requirements

- Minimum high school GPA of 2.5
- Minimum American College Test (ACT) composite score of 18
- Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Mississippi resident
- Be enrolled at least 12 hours per term

# Final Grant Components to Determine Eligibility

- **Financial Need Component:** Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by completing the FAFSA
- **Academic Based Component:** ACT score







# MISSISSIPPI ONE GRANT

The Mississippi One Grant is designed to provide financial assistance to Mississippi residents attending state approved public and private not-for-profit two-year and four-year institutions in Mississippi. Eligibility is based on the student's FAFSA. Students may receive additional funds based on ACT composite score.

**EFC Award + ACT Award = Total Annual State Aid Award**

## Four-Year Institutions

Award Amount	EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)							
	EFC= 0	EFC= 1-1500	EFC= 1501-3000	EFC= 3001- 4500	EFC= 4501-6000	EFC= 6001-9000	EFC= 9001-100K	
<b>EFC Award</b>	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	-	
<b>ACT 21-24</b>	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	
<b>ACT 25-28</b>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
<b>ACT 29 and Above</b>	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	

## Two-Year Institutions

Award Amount	EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)							
	EFC= 0	EFC= 1-1500	EFC= 1501-3000	EFC= 3001- 4500	EFC= 4501-6000	EFC= 6001-9000	EFC= 9001-100K	EFC= 9001-100K
<b>EFC Award</b>	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	\$400	\$300	\$250	\$250	-
<b>ACT 21-24</b>	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350
<b>ACT 25-28</b>	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
<b>ACT 29 and Above</b>	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800



## Initial Student Eligibility

- Minimum high school GPA of 2.5
- Minimum ACT composite score of 18
- Completion of FAFSA
- Mississippi resident

# Legacy vs. Mississippi One Grant

## Current Legacy Grant System

- Three separate major grant programs
- Zero EFC students who were only eligible for MTAG received no aid
- Award amounts are the same for two and four year college enrollment
- FAFSA not required for MTAG or MESH

## The Mississippi One Grant

- A single grant program
- Zero EFC students would receive an award
- Award amounts are tiered based on enrollment in either two or four year colleges
- FAFSA would be required

# Legacy vs. Mississippi One Grant

## Current Legacy Grant System

- Uses family income/household size to determine HELP eligibility
- No automatic annual increase in appropriations
- Students with an ACT score between 15-17 would be eligible for MTAG

## The Mississippi One Grant

- Uses the FAFSA EFC index to determine eligibility
- Built in annual increases to help maintain purchasing power
- Students with an ACT between 15-17 would no longer be eligible for state aid

# The Transition to the Mississippi One Grant

- Current Legacy students would keep their same awards and must maintain their eligibility requirements

# Analysis of the New Grant on The 2019-20 Population

- Increased the total eligible population for the new grant by 4,442 for a total of 30,698 students paid
- Increased the total number of eligible African-Americans by 1,791
- There were 3,134 students with no ACT or a score between 15-17 that would not get state aid. Many of them (1,535) had an EFC out of Pell Grant eligibility range and only 8 students received the full Pell Grant
- Current MTAG system does not award full Pell Grant students any state aid. Those students would now get at least \$2,500 (4-Year College) or \$1,000 (2-year College)

# Analysis of the New Grant on The 2019-20 Population

- HELP eligible students would see the largest negative impact on their award when compared to the current grant system
- The average Mississippi One Grant award would be:
  - African American: \$1,849      \$689 less than the current system
  - Caucasian :      \$1,336      \$83 less than the current system
  - Other:      \$1,605      \$553 less than the current system
  - Average For All:      \$1,477      \$228 less than the current system
- Fund distribution between two and four year colleges would remain relatively static using the new grant system.

# Annual Index

- Recommend an automatic increase each year based on the inflationary rate for the State of Mississippi as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Other options would be to use the figures in above bullet as base line and add additional point(s) to insure the continued purchasing power of state aid



Questions?