

MISSISSIPPI POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



IHL Executive Offices, Room 218
3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

January 12, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom:

<https://itsmsgov.zoom.us/j/89224212031>

Teleconference: 1-888-822-7517, Access code: 2791682#

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Members of the Board participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom or teleconference. Members of the media and public were invited to attend the meeting in Room 218 of the Education and Research Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi, 39211.

The following member(s) participated via Zoom or teleconference:

- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Steven Cunningham, IHL Board appointee
- Barney Daly, Lt. Governor's appointee
- Tyrone Jackson, MCCB institutional appointee
- Mark Keenum, IHL institutional appointee
- Sharon Ross, Governor's appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor's appointee and Chairman
- Diane Watson, MCCB appointee

The following member did not participate:

- Debbi Braswell, MAICU appointee

The following members of the Board's Advisory Committee participated remotely:

- Isabelle Higbee, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, Millsaps
- Laura Diven-Brown, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, University of Mississippi
- Garry Jones, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, East MS Community College
- David Williamson, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, University of Southern MS
- Letherio Ziegler, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, MS Valley State University

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Also in attendance remotely were:

- Meg Harris, Assistant Director of Operations, Student Financial Aid
- Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Board Director
- Apryll Washington, Assistant Director of Policy and Planning, Student Financial Aid
- Audra Dean, Mississippi Community College Board
- Ann Hendrick, Woodward Hines Education Foundation
- Molly Minta, Reporter, *Mississippi Today*

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Turcotte.

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On motion by Barney Daly and seconded by Mark Keenum, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on October 12, 2021 as originally drafted.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 1: Ms. Rogers presented an overview of the 2021 Annual Report. On motion by Tyrone Jackson, seconded by Ben Burnett, all Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the 2021 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs for submission to the Mississippi Legislature.

1. Review and Approve the 2021 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs for Submission to the Mississippi Legislature

The 2021 Annual Report was submitted under separate cover as Exhibit 1.

Some highlights of the report include the following:

Awards (p. 7):

- 25,222 state-supported awards (down 1,609 or 6.0%), totaling \$45.2 million (down \$300K or 0.64%)
- 24,797 individual recipients (down 1,525 students or 5.8%)
- \$1,793 average award amount (up \$97 or 5.7%)

Recipients (pp. 8-9):

- Every county represented
- 90% Dependent; 10% Independent
- 40% Male; 60% Female
- 98% aged 12-24
- 20.5% self-identify as African American; 70% as Caucasian
- 20% earn below \$30K; 34% below \$48K; 50% below \$75K; 50% over \$75K

Appropriation/Budget/Expenses/Funding Disparity (pp. 10-11):

- \$42.09 million appropriated in General Funds (up \$364K or 0.87%)
- \$1.34 million appropriated in Spending Authority (no change)
- \$43.42 million original appropriation and operating budget
- \$3.6 million deficit appropriation of general funds and \$0.5 million spending authority
- \$47.52 million final appropriation and operating budget

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- \$45.22 million expended on awards
- \$1.11 million expended on administration (2.3% of budget)
 - \$687K salaries/benefits
 - \$430K contractual services: \$200K to IHL, remaining \$230K to application, website, cybersecurity, ECSI, etc.
- \$46.47 million total expended
- \$1.06 million unspent from *current year* collections; available for carryover
- Funding disparity of \$4.5 million

Breakdown of Awards by Institution and Type (pp. 12-13):

- 4-Year Publics: 58% of awards, 75% of funds
- 2-Year Publics: 34% of awards, 15% of funds
- Privates: 8% of awards, 9% of funds
- 99.9% Grants; 0.1% Loans
- 99.9% Undergraduate; 0.1% Graduate

Charts of Awards and Amounts by Program Over Time (pp. 14-17)

Loan Repayment (pp. 18-24)

- 2,222 accounts under management (5.3% accounts in school/grace/deferment; 4.7% service; 6.0% money; 7.5% delinquent; 67.6% default; 9% closed current year)
- \$1.32 million collected
- Overall default rate is 6% (down from 10% in 2020 because Critical Needs accounts no longer included in active programs with tracked cohorts)

Summary: The Office requests approval to submit the 2021 Annual Report of State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs to the Legislature.

Item 2: Ms. Rogers presented the draft rules and regulations for a new summer grant program. On motion by Steven Cunningham, seconded by Tyrone Jackson, all Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Rules and Regulations of the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund Summer Grant Program, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

2. Review and Approve Rules and Regulations for the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund Summer Grant Program (GEER)

In late September 2021, the Governor's office reached out and inquired about possible ways to spend federal COVID relief funds for financial aid. The Office sought feedback from the Advisory Committee and responded to the Governor's Office with a list of ideas. On November 8, 2021, the Office received notice of a \$3.5 million award to be funded through the second round of the federal Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund. The money should be used to make one-time supplemental grants during the Summer 2022 term to students who may have fallen behind during the pandemic and need to take additional courses during the summer. The Governor's office did not outline specific parameters for the program but specifically requested that grants be made available only to continuing students and to students who may not have the expendable income or other resources with which to take additional summer courses.

The Office surveyed the institutions to determine the potential population of summer school students and discovered that nearly 30,000 undergraduate students take summer hours. Demand is expected to far surpass the availability of funds. Therefore, the Office is recommending applicants submit a separate online application and be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must have at least 12 earned hours of college credit, a 2.0 GPA, and be enrolled in at least 3 summer hours. Applicants must also have completed a FAFSA and have an EFC below 15,000 to be considered. Grant

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amounts will be \$500 to community college students and \$1,000 to private and public university students.

Summary: The Office requests approval of the Rules and Regulations of the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund Summer Grant Program, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Title 10: Education Institutions and Agencies

Part 622: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund Summer Grant (GEER)

Part 622 Chapter 1: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund Summer Grant (GEER) Rules and Regulations

Rule 1.1 Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund Summer Grant (GEER) Rules and Regulations. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board (Postsecondary Board). Funds will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

I. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A. The applicant must be a current legal resident of Mississippi. Resident status for purposes of receiving GEER funds under this act shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes as set forth in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, of Ms. Code Ann., with the exception of Section 37-103-17.
- B. The applicant must be a continuing college student and have completed at least twelve (12) college hours, not including any college course work taken while in high school.
- C. The applicant has earned a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college coursework completed through the Fall 2021 term.
- D. The applicant must enroll in an aid-eligible program of study at the undergraduate level at one (1) eligible institution in Mississippi for at least three (3) credit hours during a Summer 2022 term.
- E. The applicant must be seeking a first certificate, associate's, or bachelor's degree.
- F. The applicant must complete the 2022-2023 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or before April 30, 2022 and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 15,000 or less..
- G. The applicant must complete an application for GEER funds on or before April 30, 2022.
- H. The applicant must not currently be in default on a Federal or State educational loan or owe a repayment on a Federal or State grant.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Applicants must:
 1. Complete a GEER application online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid by the deadline date of April 30, 2022.

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2. File the 2022-2023 Free Application for Federal Student Aid by the deadline date of April 30, 2022.
3. Submit two forms of documentation of current legal residency by the document deadline of April 30, 2022, unless the student has already established residency with the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid. Acceptable forms of residency documentation are listed in the General Administration Rules and Regulations and published online at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid.
4. Submit by the document deadline of April 30, 2022 proof of a cumulative college GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale earned from at least twelve (12) college hours. Grade documentation must be provided by the attending institution.
5. Be enrolled in an aid-eligible program of study at the undergraduate level at one (1) eligible institution in the State of Mississippi for at least three (3) credit hours during a Summer 2022 term. Evidence of enrollment will be automatically provided to the Postsecondary Board by the attending institution.

III. LENGTH AND AMOUNT OF AWARD

- A. Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Completing the application by the deadline date does not guarantee funds.
- B. For students attending a community college, the one-time award shall not exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).
- C. For students attending a four-year institution, the one-time award shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (1,000.00).
- D. No student shall receive a combination of student financial aid and GEER funds that exceeds the cost of attendance as defined by the institution's Federal Pell Grant Budget.
- E. Payment of GEER awards shall be disbursed directly to the educational institutions and applied first to tuition.
- F. If a recipient transfers from one eligible Mississippi institution to another, the award will be transferable, provided the student applies for the grant and is otherwise eligible.

Item 3: The Board discussed the 2022 meeting schedule. Ms. Rogers will confer with Dr. Turcotte and send out Doodle Polls to determine the best dates for each meeting.

3. Discuss 2022 Meeting Schedule

The Board will need to meet according to the following schedule in 2022:

January 12 – approve Annual Report
April – approve FY 2023 budgets
June – approve FY 2024 budget request
September – approve legislative requests
December – subject to call

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The Board may choose to continue its strategic planning discussions during the regular meetings or meet separately for that purpose.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY

The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY

The Board did not consider the need to enter Executive Session.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

The Board held a strategic planning discussion, the minutes for which were recorded separately and are maintained with the materials for the December 17, 2020 Strategic Planning Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Turcotte declared the meeting adjourned.



Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
Assistance Board