

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PART 2763
MINORITY TEACHERS OF ILLINOIS (MTI) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 50 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/50 and 20(f)].

SOURCE: Emergency rules adopted at 15 Ill. Reg. 15621, effective October 11, 1991, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on March 9, 1992; adopted at 16 Ill. Reg. 7048, effective April 21, 1992; emergency amendments adopted at 16 Ill. Reg. 16326, effective September 28, 1992, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on February 25, 1993; emergency amendment at 17 Ill. Reg. 175, effective January 1, 1993, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on May 30, 1993; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10585, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10325, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8361, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9221, effective July 1, 1996; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9221, effective July 1, 1996; old Part repealed, new Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11174, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11141, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9181, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10385, effective July 1, 2003; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 9155, effective July 1, 2004; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9934, effective July 1, 2005; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11678, effective July 1, 2006.

Section 2763.10 Summary and Purpose

- a) The Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program encourages academically talented minority students to pursue careers as teachers at nonprofit Illinois preschool, elementary and secondary schools. The program also aims to provide minority children with access to a greater number of positive minority role models.
- b) This Part establishes the rules which govern the MTI Scholarship Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

(Source: Amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10385, effective July 1, 2003)

Section 2763.20 Applicant Eligibility

- a) A qualified applicant shall be:
 - 1) a minority student;
 - 2) a resident of Illinois;
 - 3) a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;
 - 4) a high school graduate or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate recipient;
 - 5) enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis;
 - 6) a student at an institution of higher learning;
 - 7) enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a course of study which, upon completion, qualifies the student to be certified as a preschool, elementary or secondary school teacher by the Illinois State Board of Education, including alternative teacher certification;
 - 8) maintaining a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and
 - 9) maintaining satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution.

- b) In any academic year in which the qualified applicant accepts or receives financial assistance through the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2762), Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2764), the Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2765), or the Teach Illinois Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2768), the qualified applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance under this Part.

(Source: Amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11678, effective July 1, 2006)

Section 2763.30 Program Procedures

- a) A completed ISAC application for the MTI Scholarship Program must be postmarked on or before March 1 immediately preceding the regular school year

for which the scholarship is being requested, in order to receive priority consideration for an award.

- 1) Applications are available from qualified institutions of higher learning, ISAC's Web site, Illinois State legislative and Illinois Congressional offices, and ISAC's Springfield, Deerfield and Chicago offices.
 - 2) ISAC will make renewal applications available to all qualified students who were awarded MTI Scholarships during the preceding regular school year.
 - 3) If the application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant. The applicant will then have an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the application will only be considered for processing as of the date when the application is complete and received at ISAC's Deerfield office.
- b) At least 30 percent of the funds appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in each fiscal year shall be reserved for male qualified applicants. *If the Commission does not receive enough applications from qualified male minorities on or before January 1 of each fiscal year to award 30% of the funds appropriated for these scholarships to qualified male minority applicants, then the Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds to qualified female minority applicants.* [110 ILCS 947/50]
- c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Section, awards will be made first to renewing applicants.
- d) No recipient may receive more than 8 semesters/12 quarters of scholarship assistance under this program.
- e) Scholarship funds are applicable towards up to two semesters/three quarters of study within a regular school year.
- f) The total number of scholarships awarded in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding. If appropriated funds are insufficient to provide all qualified applicants with a scholarship, available funds shall be allocated in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) of this Section and on the basis of the dates that the completed applications are received in ISAC's Deerfield office. However, preference may be given to qualified applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.

- g) Qualified applicants may be required to furnish the postsecondary institution at which they are enrolled with a copy of their high school transcripts, any other documentation verifying high school graduation, or a copy of their GED certificates.

- h) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance under this Part, the qualified applicant must sign a Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note that is submitted to ISAC. The Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note shall include the following stipulations:
 - 1) the recipient pledges to teach, on a full-time equivalent basis, for one year for each year of scholarship aid received, or for any portion of a year for which aid was received, under this Part;
 - 2) the recipient shall begin teaching within one year following the completion of the program for which the recipient received assistance under this Part, and shall teach on a continuous basis for the required period of time;
 - 3) the teaching requirement will be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, elementary school or secondary school at which no less than 30 percent of the enrolled students are minority students, as certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE);
 - 4) if the teaching requirement is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan and the recipient must repay the entire amount of the scholarships prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of interest equal to five percent and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees;
 - 5) the recipient agrees to provide ISAC with evidence of compliance with program requirements (e.g., responses to annual follow-up questionnaires, etc.); and
 - 6) the recipient promises to use the proceeds of the scholarship for educational expenses.

- i) A recipient of a scholarship awarded under this Part shall not be in violation of the agreement entered into pursuant to Section 2763.30(h) during periods in which the recipient:
 - 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces;

- 2) is enrolled on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning;
 - 3) is temporarily totally disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician;
 - 4) is actively seeking but unable to find full-time employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (h)(3) of this Section for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact;
 - 5) is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in Illinois; or
 - 6) is fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other programs administered by ISAC if he or she cannot concurrently fulfill them in a period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.
- j) If a recipient is required to repay any portion of the scholarship, the repayment period shall be completed within ten years after the scholarship converts to a loan. This ten-year period may be extended if the recipient:
- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces;
 - 2) is temporarily disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician;
 - 3) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment, for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact;
 - 4) withdraws from a course of study leading to certification as a teacher but is enrolled full-time in another academic discipline; or
 - 5) is pursuing a graduate course of study and is enrolled on a full-time basis for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years.
- k) During the time a recipient qualifies for any of the extensions listed in subsection (j) of this Section, he or she shall not be required to make payments and interest shall not accrue.

- l) A recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest of the following dates:
 - 1) the first day of the first calendar month after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study leading to certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary or secondary level, but not before six months have elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment in such a course of study;
 - 2) the date the recipient informs ISAC that he or she does not plan to fulfill the teaching obligation; or
 - 3) the day after the latest date upon which the recipient must have begun teaching after completing the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was awarded.

- m) A recipient shall not be required to repay the amount of the scholarships received if he or she becomes permanently totally disabled as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician (see, e.g., 34 CFR 653.42(k)(1)), or if his or her representative provides ISAC with a death certificate or other evidence that the recipient has died.

(Source: Amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11678, effective July 1, 2006)

Section 2763.40 Institutional Procedures

- a) The institution shall submit eligibility information for qualified applicants in sufficient time for ISAC to make award announcements.
- b) The institution shall submit a certification of eligibility for qualified applicants with its request for payment, within the time frame requested by ISAC, which shall be no sooner than 30 days unless a more rapid response is necessary to expend appropriated funds prior to the end of the academic year.
- c) ISAC shall disburse scholarship funds in two or three installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the scholarship, except that multiple disbursements shall not be required in cases where the applicant's eligibility is not determined until the final term of the regular school year for which the scholarship is being awarded or when a student is attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed the student's cost of attendance.
- d) Funds shall be remitted by ISAC to institutions on behalf of the recipients.

- e) Upon receipt of scholarship funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the institution may credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient.
- f) Upon receipt of the scholarship funds, if the recipient has withdrawn from enrollment for the terms for which the award was intended, the institution shall return the amount of the scholarship payment to ISAC.
- g) Scholarship Amount
 - 1) MTI scholarships are applicable only toward tuition and fees and room and board charges or commuter allowances, if applicable.
 - 2) The annual scholarship amount shall be computed by the institution and must be the lesser of:
 - A) tuition and fees plus room and board expenses charged by the institution;
 - B) tuition and fees plus the standard commuter allowance for students living off-campus; or
 - C) \$5000.
 - 3) The total amount of MTI scholarship assistance awarded to a qualified applicant in a given regular school year, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.
 - 4) A qualified applicant may receive grant assistance under the Monetary Award Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735) only up to the amount by which the qualified applicant's cost of attendance exceeds the amount of the MTI scholarship.
- h) To provide sufficient time for processing and vouchering through the State Comptroller's Office in Springfield, all payment requests must be received by ISAC no later than July 1.

(Source: Amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11678, effective July 1, 2006)