

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION

CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PART 2766

AIM HIGH GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

Section

2766.10 Summary and Purpose

EMERGENCY

2766.15 Definitions

EMERGENCY

2766.20 Institutional Applicant Eligibility

EMERGENCY

2766.30 Program Procedures

EMERGENCY

2766.40 Institutional Procedures

EMERGENCY

2766.50 Student Applicant and Recipient Eligibility

EMERGENCY

AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by Section 65.100 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/65.100].

SOURCE: Repealed at 31 Ill. Reg. 9523, effective July 1, 2007; adopted by Emergency rulemaking at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____.

Section 2766.10 Summary and Purpose

EMERGENCY

- a) In an effort to increase enrollment of Illinois residents at Illinois public universities, increase overall retention of Illinois college students in Illinois and encourage Illinois residents to attain a college degree, state appropriated funds are to be used to enable Illinois public universities to establish a merit-based, means-tested award program known as the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program to make college more affordable at their campuses while reducing the amount of student loan debt. Each eligible public university campus must match those funds with non-loan financial aid for eligible students and maintain or exceed levels of financial aid to Illinois residents from fiscal year 2018. ISAC is responsible for

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

administering the distribution of AIM HIGH grant funds to the public universities pursuant to this Part and governing laws.

- b) This Part establishes rules that govern the Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education (AIM HIGH) Grant Pilot Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

Section 2766.15 Definitions
EMERGENCY

“Illinois High School” - *any high school located in Illinois whether or not recognized by the State Board of Education.*

“Maintenance of Effort” or “MOE” - a requirement that in the academic year AIM HIGH funds are received by the public university campus, the total amount of qualifying non-loan financial aid the public university campus awards to its Illinois resident undergraduate students must be at least as much as those same awards in fiscal year 2018 and shall not include AIM HIGH funded awards or matching requirement awards made in that academic year.

“Matching Requirement” - a requirement that the public university campus use its own funds in the academic year for which the AIM HIGH funds are used, to equally match those AIM HIGH funds allocated to it, to award non-loan financial aid to pay for tuition and other necessary fees for its students who meet at least the qualifications described in Section 2766.50(b).

“Public University” - *any public 4-year university in Illinois.*

“Public University Campus” - *any campus under the governance or supervision of a public university.*

“Qualifying non-loan financial aid” – non-loan financial aid, the awarding of which is mostly within the control of the public university campus; the data requested to demonstrate such awarding shall be determined by ISAC and shall be applied uniformly across university campuses.

“Resident of Illinois” or “Illinois Resident” - defined by the laws governing eligibility for in-state tuition at the public university campus.

“Tuition and other necessary fees” - *includes the customary charge for instruction and use of facilities in general and the additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes that are required generally of non-grant recipients for each academic period for which the grant applicant actually enrolls, but does not include fees payable only once or breakage fees and*

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

other contingent deposits that are refundable in whole or in part. The Commission may adopt, by rule not inconsistent with this Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of tuition and other necessary fees.

**Section 2766.20 Institutional Applicant Eligibility
EMERGENCY**

- a) A public university applicant is eligible to apply for and receive an allocation of an appropriation of AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program funds if it:
 - 1) submits a timely and complete application that includes a description of the award(s) to be funded with AIM HIGH funds that meet program eligibility criteria consistent with Section 2766.50(a), (b) and (c) to be used solely for tuition and other necessary fees at that university or university campus during the academic year, not including the summer term;
 - 2) certifies in good faith that it shall use its own funds in the academic year for which the AIM HIGH funds are requested, to equally match those AIM HIGH funds allocated to it, to award non-loan financial aid to pay for tuition and other necessary fees for its students who meet at least the qualifications described in Section 2766.50(b);
 - 3) certifies the total amount of qualifying non-loan financial aid it awarded to its Illinois resident undergraduate students in fiscal year 2018, which number shall serve as a baseline for its MOE going forward;
 - 4) certifies that during the academic year for which the AIM HIGH funds are requested it shall, in addition to awards made for the matching requirement, make a good faith effort to award qualifying non-loan financial aid to its Illinois resident undergraduate students, not including AIM HIGH funded awards, in an amount that is at least equal to the amount of aid awarded to its Illinois resident undergraduate students at that public institution in fiscal year 2018, or if such enrollment is less than in fiscal year 2018, that total amount calculated on a per student basis;
 - 5) has met all information reporting requirements in Section 2766.40(c);
 - 6) has not been suspended or disqualified from receiving an allocation for the upcoming academic year for noncompliance with the terms of the grant

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

agreement, the law, this Part, other administrative rules or policies and procedures; and

- 7) enters into an AIM HIGH Grant Pilot program grant agreement with ISAC.

b) For renewal applications, in addition to complying with Section 2766.20(a), the public university campus shall:

- 1) demonstrate that it met its matching requirement and MOE in the previous academic year;
- 2) in any academic year the public university campus fails to meet its entire matching requirement, demonstrate that it made a good faith effort to meet its matching requirement to be eligible for an allocation that is necessary to fund only renewal AIM HIGH funded awards in the next academic year; and
- 3) in any academic year where the public university campus fails to make its entire MOE, demonstrate that it made a good faith effort to make its MOE to be eligible for:
 - A) 100% of its allocation of AIM HIGH program funds if in the preceding academic year the public university campus made its entire MOE;
 - B) 90% of the previous academic year's AIM HIGH program funds received and distributed by the public university campus if it is the second consecutive academic year the public university campus fails to make its entire MOE; and
 - C) an allocation that is necessary to fund only renewal AIM HIGH program funded awards in any academic year where it is the third or more consecutive academic year that the public university campus fails to make its entire MOE.

**Section 2766.30 Program Procedures
EMERGENCY**

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

- a) Each year, on a date determined by ISAC, ISAC will request from each public university campus the number of undergraduate students who are residents of Illinois and citizens or eligible noncitizens of the US and who were enrolled at that public university campus in the previous academic year.
- b) ISAC will determine for each public university campus its proportionate allocation of appropriated funds for the upcoming academic year using enrollment data provided pursuant to Section 2766.30(a).
- c) After determining the allocation of the appropriation for each public university campus, ISAC will inform each public university campus of the amount of its available allocation for the upcoming academic year.
- d) Annually, each public university campus may opt to apply for all or part of its allocation of appropriated funds.
- e) If a public institution does not request all or part of its allocation, ISAC will reallocate those unclaimed funds, using the same methodology as the initial allocation determination, among the remaining universities that have indicated a desire to receive an additional allocation.
- f) The university campus shall complete an application for the AIM HIGH funds that shall be due by a date determined by ISAC in a form provided by ISAC and shall include at a minimum the following information and documentation:
 - 1) the amount of the allocation the university has claimed for the upcoming academic year;
 - 2) the total university campus funds used to match funds received from ISAC in the previous academic year, if any;
 - 3) the total number of undergraduate students who are residents of Illinois from the previous academic year;
 - 4) all information and certifications that demonstrate eligibility as described in Section 2766.20 Institutional Applicant Eligibility; and
 - 5) any other information or certifications required by law, the grant agreement or ISAC procedures.

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

- g) If the application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant, who will have an opportunity to furnish the missing information. The application will only be considered for processing as of the date the completed application is received at ISAC's Deerfield office.
- h) A university that does not submit a complete application by the date designated by ISAC may not be eligible to receive its allocation. Instead, its share may be distributed by ISAC using the allocation determination methodology in Section 2766.30(a) to make the remaining funds available for other universities who filed timely applications and indicate a desire for an additional allocation.
- i) The total amount of grant funds to be distributed among eligible applicant universities in a given academic year is contingent upon available funding from the previous fiscal year and whether all eligible institutions elect to receive their full allocation.
- j) No funds shall be distributed to the public university campus until all AIM HIGH funds from the previous academic year have been reconciled and any awarded funds not used to fund awards consistent with Section 2766.20 Institutional Applicant Eligibility have been returned.
- k) Depending upon the number of academic years and the degree to which the public university campus fails to make its matching requirement or MOE, the university campus may be suspended from participating in the AIM HIGH program in an academic year, but shall be eligible to regain eligibility in the academic year following such suspension.
- l) When making the determination to reduce an award consistent with Section 2766.20(b)(2) and (3), or suspend a university campus from the AIM HIGH program for not meeting its matching requirement or MOE consistent with Section 2766.30(k), ISAC shall take into account the circumstances that may have contributed to such failure, such as, but not limited to, a reduction in state appropriations to fund the public university campus in that academic year; the number of matching requirement or MOE qualifying awards offered by the public institution, but not accepted by students in that academic year; tuition waiver limitations established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education; and the commitment demonstrated by the public university campus to maintaining level tuition and other necessary fees for Illinois residents over multiple academic years.

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

- m) *On or before October 1, 2020 and annually on or before October 1 thereafter ISAC shall submit a report with the findings under Section 2766.40(c) and any other information regarding the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program to (i) the Governor, (ii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives, (iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, (iv) the President of the Senate, and (v) the Minority Leader of the Senate. The reports to the General Assembly shall be filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the Clerk and the Secretary shall direct.*
- n) *ISAC's report may not disaggregate data to a level that may disclose personally identifying information of individual students. The sharing and reporting of student data under Section 2766.40(c) must be in accordance with the requirements under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Illinois School Student Records Act. All parties must preserve the confidentiality of the information as required by law. The names of the student award recipients under this Section are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.*

**Section 2766.40 Institutional Procedures
EMERGENCY**

- a) In addition to complying with the Program Procedures in Section 2766.30, the public university campus shall be responsible for administering and making awards to students in compliance with this section and the policies of the university campus. For its own awards using its AIM HIGH allocation, a public university campus shall:
 - 1) establish the amount of the award based on an individual or broad basis limited by any tuition waiver limitation established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education;
 - 2) establish reasonable criteria consistent with eligibility criteria in Section 2766.50;
 - 3) use grant funds solely to fund tuition and other necessary fees at that university campus during the academic year, not including summer terms;
 - 4) renew the award each year for each student who meets the renewal criteria established by the public university campus consistent with the renewal eligibility criteria in Section 2766.50 in amounts not less than the amount

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

provided in the student's first year at that university campus per Section 2766.50;

- 5) give preference to eligible renewal applicants in any academic year funding is insufficient to award to all eligible applicants;
 - 6) *use its best efforts to delegate grant funds amongst a racially diverse range of students and not use a student's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, or pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, or genetic information to disqualify him or her from receiving funds under this program;*
 - 7) post on its website the criteria and eligibility requirements and the amount of the award using AIM HIGH funds and provide that information to ISAC and the Illinois Board of Higher Education to post on their respective websites;
 - 8) indicate in each initial student award application the renewal criteria for each academic year and not change those criteria for that recipient;
 - 9) make each renewal award contingent upon the availability of funding for the academic year in which the award is used; and
 - 10) reconcile and return the amount of AIM HIGH funds that were not used for awards in the academic year for which funds were granted before receiving the distribution of its allocation for the next academic year.
- b) Each institution shall be responsible for meeting its statutorily-mandated matching requirement and MOE pursuant to Sections 2766.15 and 2766.20 to remain eligible for its allocation.
 - c) Annually, on a date and in a format determined by ISAC, each participating public university campus shall report the following information to ISAC:
 - 1) *the Program's impact on tuition revenue and enrollment goals and increase in access and affordability at the public university campus;*
 - 2) *total funds received by the public university campus under the Program;*

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

- 3) *total non-loan financial aid awarded to undergraduate students attending the public university campus;*
- 4) *total amount of funds matched by the public university campus;*
- 5) *total amount of funds refunded to ISAC by the public university campus;*
- 6) *the percentage of total financial aid including awards made with matching funds distributed under the Program by the public university campus; and*
- 7) *the total number of students receiving awards from the public university campus under the Program including awards made with matching funds and those students' name, date of birth, grade level, race, ethnicity, gender, income level, family size, Monetary Award Program eligibility, Pell Grant eligibility, and ZIP code of residence, the amount of each award and the total cost of attendance for each student after non-loan financial aid. This information shall include unit record data on those students regarding variables associated with the parameters of the public university campus's Program, including, but not limited to, a student's ACT or SAT college admissions test score, high school or university cumulative grade point average, or program of study.*

**Section 2766.50 Student Applicant and Recipient Eligibility
EMERGENCY**

- a) An eligible student applicant for funding from the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program allocation shall:
 - 1) have attended an Illinois high school;
 - 2) be engaged in a program of study that in due course will be completed by the end of the school year;
 - 3) apply to be enrolled for the first time at the public university campus where the award will be used; and
 - 4) meet all the student eligibility qualifications and requirements under Section 2766.50(b) before receiving an award.
- b) In order to meet the eligibility qualifications and requirements, an award recipient shall:

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

- 1) *be a resident of Illinois and a citizen or eligible noncitizen of the United States;*
 - 2) *file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and demonstrate financial need with a household income no greater than 6 times the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2);*
 - 3) *meet the minimum cumulative grade point average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as determined by the public university campus;*
 - 4) *be enrolled in a participating public university campus as an undergraduate student on a full-time basis;*
 - 5) *have not yet received a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours;*
 - 6) *not be incarcerated;*
 - 7) *not be in default on any student loan nor owe a refund or repayment on any State or federal grant or scholarship; and*
 - 8) *meet any other reasonable criteria, as determined by the public university campus.*
- c) An AIM HIGH funded award recipient who meets the eligibility criteria for renewals shall be eligible for an AIM HIGH renewal award in subsequent academic years, the criteria for which shall be determined by the public university campus consistent with the criteria in Section 2766.50.
- 1) AIM HIGH funded award renewal amounts shall be in an amount not less than the AIM HIGH funded amount from the renewal applicant's first year of attendance at the university campus, unless there is a reduction due to changes in the student's cost of attendance which may be due to:
 - A) a reduction in credit hours in which he or she is enrolled, but remains a full time student; or

ILLINOIS REGISTER

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULES

- B) switching to a course of study with a lower tuition rate.
- d) An AIM HIGH funded award recipient under Section 2766.50(a) or a renewal applicant thereof shall be eligible for tuition and other necessary fees in the amount determined by the public university campus during the academic year, not including summer terms and shall be eligible to receive other financial aid.
- e) The total amount of the AIM HIGH funds awarded to a qualified recipient in a given academic year when added to other financial aid available to the qualified recipient for that year shall not exceed the cost of attendance.
- f) The amount of the AIM HIGH funded award or the renewal thereof shall be limited by any tuition waiver limitation established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the availability of funding for that academic year.
- g) Applicants eligible for an award using matching requirement funds must meet the criteria in Section 2766.50(b), and renewal availability and eligibility criteria shall be determined by the public university campus consistent with Section 2766.50(b).