

AGENDA ITEM 6.

PROPOSED PROGRAM RULES AMENDMENTS

Submitted for: Action

Summary: This item reports on the agency's proposed program rules amendments. Amendments have been proposed to Part 2764, the Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC) Program. The amendments were published in the Illinois Register on April 27, 2012, triggering a 45-day public comment period.

This Part is being amended to accommodate Public Act 096-0411, which requires the consolidation of the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching's Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program into one program. The consolidated program shall be known as the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program.

The proposed program rules amendments are being presented to the Commission for consideration now that the public comment period has ended. No public comments were received and no substantive changes have been made since the initial publication; only technical modifications have been included that are a normal part of the rulemaking process.

According to the rulemaking process, a second 45-day review period is required during which time the proposed program rules amendments are reviewed by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). Following acceptance of the proposed program rules amendments by the Commission, the Executive Director may direct staff to submit the proposed program rules amendments to JCAR thus initiating the second 45-day review period.

Action requested: That the Commission approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission accepts the proposed program rules amendments, as modified thus far during the rulemaking process, for submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and that the Commission further authorize the Executive Director to proceed with finalizing the program rules amendments if no objections are received from JCAR.”

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

PART 2764

GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLARS OF ILLINOIS PROGRAM
ILLINOIS FUTURE TEACHER CORPS (IFTC) PROGRAM

Section	
2764.10	Summary and Purpose
2764.20	Applicant Eligibility
2764.30	Program Procedures
2764.40	Institutional Procedures

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 52 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/52] and authorized by Sections 20(f) and 52(h) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f) and 52(h)].

SOURCE: Emergency rules adopted at 19 Ill. Reg. 976, effective February 1, 1995, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on June 30, 1995; adopted at 19 Ill. Reg. 11367, effective August 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9141, effective July 1, 1996; old Part repealed at 21 Ill. Reg. 11027 and new Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11029, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11043, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9095, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10395, effective July 1, 2003; emergency amendment at 27 Ill. Reg. 14860, effective September 10, 2003, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 1749, effective January 25, 2004; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 9162, effective July 1, 2004; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11687, effective July 1, 2006; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10333, effective July 1, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 9784, effective July 1, 2009; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____.

Section 2764.10 Summary and Purpose

- a) *The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois ~~The Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC)~~ Program encourages academically talented Illinois students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines or at hard-to-staff schools [110 ILCS 947/52].*

- b) This Part establishes the rules that govern the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois IFTC Program, hereinafter the "Program." Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700).
- c) The rights and obligations of students receiving scholarship assistance through the Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC) Program, as previously described in this Part, shall continue to be governed by any administrative rules in effect at the time scholarship assistance was awarded to the recipient through the IFTC Program.

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(Source: Amended at 36 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 2764.20 Applicant Eligibility

- a) All qualified applicants must be designated as a Golden Apple Scholar by the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching (the Foundation).
- b) A qualified applicant ~~A qualified applicant~~; at the time of designation as a Golden Apple Scholar by the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, shall:
 - 1) be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen; ~~shall be: A) a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;~~
 - 2) be a resident of Illinois; ~~a resident of Illinois;~~
 - 3) be a high school graduate or a person who has received a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate; ~~a high school graduate or a person who has received a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate;~~
 - 4) be enrolled at a four-year institution designated by the Foundation as a participating Illinois college or university; ~~enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at or above the junior level, on at least a half-time basis at an Illinois institution of higher learning; and~~
 - 5) have entered into a program agreement and promissory note with the Foundation and ISAC, as described in this Part; ~~pursuing a postsecondary course of study leading to initial teacher certification or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approval~~

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to teach, including alternative teacher certification [110 ILCS 947/52]; or

c)2) In order to receive scholarship assistance under this Part, a qualified applicant shall be a Golden Apple Scholar enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at or above the junior level, on at least a half time basis at an Illinois institution of higher learning.

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- 1) be enrolled at the junior or senior level in a postsecondary course of study leading to initial teacher certification or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification [110 ILCS 947/52];
- 2) have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and
- 3) have participated in all required programs and adhered to the residential guidelines and standards of conduct as a designated Golden Apple Scholar of the Foundation.

d) 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), the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2763), the Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2765), or the Teach Illinois Scholarship (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2768), or from the Golden Apple Foundation, the qualified applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance under this Part.

(Source: Amended at 36 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 2764.30 Program Procedures

a) Qualified applicants shall have completed and filed an application for program participation with the Foundation prior to becoming eligible for scholarship assistance under this Section. Applications shall be made available to qualified applicants by and submitted to the Foundation before a qualified applicant may be designated as a Golden Apple Scholar by the Foundation.

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b) The Foundation shall designate Golden Apple Scholars as defined in their established selection protocol.

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c) Each year, the Foundation shall identify Golden Apple Scholars eligible to receive scholarship assistance from ISAC under this Part by submitting to ISAC any necessary data related to the qualified applicant and, at such time, by certifying that:

- 1) Students selected to receive scholarship assistance under this Part meet the eligibility requirements described in Section 2764.20(a) or in the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/52];
- 2) Students selected to receive scholarship assistance under this Part have entered into a Program Agreement and Promissory Note with the Foundation that satisfies the requirements listed in this Part; and
- 3) Thirty percent of students selected to receive scholarship assistance under this Part in a given fiscal year will be awarded to students residing in counties having a population of fewer than 500,000.

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d) In order to receive scholarship assistance under this Part, a Golden Apple Scholar must have signed a Program Agreement and Promissory Note with the Foundation and ISAC that includes the following stipulations:

- 1) the recipient pledges to teach, on a full time basis, for a period of not less than five years and in accordance with any additional commitment to teach in a teacher shortage discipline, which shall include early childhood education;
- 2) the recipient shall begin teaching within one year following completion of the postsecondary education degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded, 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, or an Illinois public elementary or secondary school that qualifies for teacher loan cancellation under section 465(a)(2)(A) of the HEA (see 20 USC 1087ee);
- 4) if the teaching requirement is not fulfilled, the scholarship assistance

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provided under this Part 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 equal to five percent and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees:

- 5) the recipient agrees to provide the Foundation or 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.
- e) All amounts collected on a scholarship that converts to a loan under this Part, less any portion of those funds that equals the amount in expenses that ISAC has incurred in collecting the debt, shall be remitted to the Comptroller for deposit in the General Revenue Fund.
- f) A recipient of a scholarship awarded under this Part shall not be in violation of the agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (d) during the period in which the recipient:
- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces; or
 - 2) is enrolled full-time in a graduate course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning; or
 - 3) is temporarily totally disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; or
 - 4) is actively seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (d)(3) for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or
 - 5) is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in Illinois; or

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- 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 commitment; or
- 7) is participating in a program established by Executive Order 10924 of the President of the United States or the National Community Service Act of 1990 (42 USC 12501 et seq., as amended).

g) If a recipient is required to repay any portion of the scholarship, the repayment period shall be completed within 10 years after the scholarship converts to a loan. This 10-year period may be extended if the recipient:

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- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces; or
- 2) is temporarily disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician; or
- 3) 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; or
- 4) 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; or
- 5) withdraws from a course of study leading to certification/approval in a teacher shortage discipline, but is enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years.

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h) During the time a recipient qualifies for any of the extensions listed in subsection (g), he or she shall not be required to make payments and interest shall not accrue.

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i) 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, but not until six months have elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment in such a course of study;

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- 2) the date the Foundation informs ISAC or ISAC otherwise learns that a recipient of scholarship assistance has not fulfilled 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.

j) 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 licensed 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.

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~~a) Golden Apple Scholars shall be designated by the Golden Apple Foundation. All other applicants must complete and file the form the U.S. Department of Education (ED) designates as an application for federal student financial aid for the purpose of determining the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that is used as a selection criterion for this award. (See section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USC 1070a).)~~

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~~b) A completed ISAC application for the IFTC Program must be postmarked on or before March 1 immediately preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is being requested, in order to receive priority consideration for an award.~~

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~~1) Applications are available at qualified institutions of higher learning, ISAC's Web site, and ISAC's Springfield, Deerfield and Chicago offices.~~

~~2) ISAC will make renewal applications available to all qualified students who were awarded assistance under this Part during the preceding academic year.~~

~~3) If the student section of an ISAC application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant. The applicant will then have an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the application will be considered for processing as of the date when the application is complete and received at ISAC's Deerfield office.~~

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e) ~~Selection of Recipients~~

1) ~~In each year, a minimum of 200 awards shall be allocated to participants in the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program [110 ILCS 947/52].~~

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2) ~~After satisfying the minimum number of awards to participants in the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program, ISAC shall give first preference in the selection process to the previous academic year's recipients of assistance under this Part who are not Golden Apple Scholars, provided he or she meets the following qualifications:~~

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A) ~~continues to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;~~

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B) ~~maintains his or her status as a qualified applicant, as outlined in Section 2764.20(a);~~

C) ~~maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution; and~~

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D) ~~has submitted an application on a timely basis.~~

3) ~~For all other qualified applicants who are not Golden Apple Scholars, priority, in combination with the following criteria, is given to those who filed timely applications and are enrolled in a teacher shortage discipline (including early childhood education), pledged on the Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note to teach in a hard-to-staff school, or enrolled in a teacher shortage discipline and pledged to teach in a hard-to-staff school. Point values are assigned to the criteria and awards are made according to the highest point totals.~~

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A) ~~Cumulative grade point averages: 0-40 points, reflecting the GPA from highest to the lowest. All grade point averages will be converted to a four point scale;~~

B) ~~Expected Family Contribution (EFC): 0-30 points, from the lowest to the highest;~~

~~C) Minority students: 15 points.~~

~~4) If all other criteria are equal, priority consideration will be given to the qualified applicant who submitted his or her completed application to ISAC on the earliest date.~~

~~d) A recipient may receive up to 4 semesters/6 quarters of scholarship assistance under this program.~~

~~e) Scholarship funds are applicable toward two semesters/three quarters of half time and full time study within an academic year.~~

~~f) The total number of scholarships awarded in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding.~~

~~g) To the extent necessary to administer this program within the limits of the State appropriation, the Commission may adjust the priority consideration factors and scholarship amounts established by this Section.~~

~~h) ISAC shall publish guidelines for the awarding of IFTC scholarships.~~

~~i) Notice of eligibility shall be sent to each qualified applicant who is selected to receive an IFTC scholarship. A notice will be sent to each qualified applicant who is not selected to receive an IFTC scholarship.~~

~~j) Scholarship Stipulations~~

~~1) For Golden Apple Scholars to receive scholarship assistance for any academic year, the qualified applicant must have signed the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Agreement and Statement of Eligibility and Compliance that are on file at the Golden Apple Foundation.~~

~~2) For all others, prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any academic year, the qualified applicant must sign an IFTC Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note that is submitted to ISAC. The IFTC Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note shall include the following stipulations:~~

~~A) the recipient pledges to teach, on a full-time basis, for a period of not less than five years and in accordance with any additional~~

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~~commitment to teach in a teacher shortage discipline (which shall include early childhood education) or at a hard to staff school, or both;~~

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~~B) the recipient shall begin teaching within one year following completion of the postsecondary education degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded, and shall teach on a continuous basis for the required period of time;~~

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~~C) the teaching requirement will be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, or an Illinois public elementary or secondary school and if the award made under this Part was for teaching at a hard to staff school, the school must qualify for teacher loan cancellation under section 465(a)(2)(A) of the HEA (see 20 USC 1087ee);~~

~~D) 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 equal to five percent and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees;~~

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~~E) the recipient agrees to provide ISAC with evidence of compliance with program requirements (e.g., responses to annual follow up questionnaires, etc.); and~~

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~~F) the recipient promises to use the proceeds of the scholarship for educational expenses;~~

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~~k) Except for Golden Apple Scholars, a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this Part shall not be in violation of the agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (j)(2) during the period in which the recipient:~~

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~~1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces; or~~

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~~2) is enrolled full-time in a graduate course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning; or~~

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~~3) is temporarily totally disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; or~~

~~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 (j)(2)(C) for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or~~

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~~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 commitment.~~

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~~l) Except for Golden Apple Scholars, 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:~~

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~~1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces; or~~

~~2) is temporarily disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician; or~~

~~3) 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; or~~

~~4) 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; or~~

~~5) withdraws from a course of study leading to certification/approval in a teacher shortage discipline, but is enrolled at least half time as an undergraduate for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years.~~

~~m) During the time a recipient qualifies for any of the extensions listed in subsection~~

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~~(1), he or she shall not be required to make payments and interest shall not accrue.~~

~~n) Except for Golden Apple Scholars, 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, but not until 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.~~

~~e) Except for Golden Apple Scholars, 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 licensed 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.~~

~~p) Renewal recipients may receive a subsequent award even if their discipline is no longer on the approved list of teacher shortage disciplines.~~

~~q) Golden Apple Scholars must comply with the stipulations as stated in the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Agreement and Statement of Eligibility and Compliance.~~

(Source: Amended at 36 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

Section 2764.40 Institutional Procedures

a) The institution shall submit eligibility information for selected recipients~~qualified applicants~~ in sufficient time for ISAC to make award announcements.

b) The institution shall submit a certification of eligibility for selected

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recipients~~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 academic 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 assistance provided under this Part shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - 1) A recipient may receive up to 4 semesters or 6 quarters of scholarship assistance under this program.~~IFTC scholarships are applicable only toward tuition, fees and room and board charges or commuter allowances, if applicable.~~
 - 2) Scholarship funds are applicable toward two semesters or three quarters of half-time and full-time study within an academic year.
 - 3) The total number of scholarships awarded in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding.

4) Program scholarships are applicable only toward tuition, fees and room and board charges or commuter allowances, if applicable.

5)2) The annual scholarship amount shall be computed by the institution and be the lesser of:

A) tuition and fees plus room and board expenses charged by the institution;

B) tuition and fees plus the institution's standard cost of living allowance for students living off-campus;

C) an amount not to exceed \$10,000 unless otherwise authorized by this Section~~\$5000~~; or

D) an amount not to exceed \$15,000~~\$10,000~~, subject to appropriation, if the student is pursuing a course of study necessary to teach in a teacher shortage discipline in which he or she commits to teach, and the student~~or~~ has also made a commitment to teach at a hard-to-staff school; ~~or~~

~~E) an amount not to exceed \$15,000, subject to appropriation, if the student is pursuing a course of study necessary to teach in a teacher shortage discipline in which he or she commits to teach, and has also made a commitment to teach at a hard to staff school.~~

6)3) The total amount of ~~HFTC~~ scholarship assistance awarded under this Section to a recipient of scholarship assistance under this Part~~qualified applicant~~ in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.

7)4) A recipient of scholarship assistance under this Part~~qualified applicant~~ may receive grant assistance under the Monetary Award Program only up to the amount by which the qualified applicant's cost of attendance exceeds the amount of the ~~HFTC~~ scholarship assistance awarded under this Section.

- h) To provide sufficient time for processing and vouchering through the State Comptroller's Office in Springfield, all payment requests ~~except for summer term~~ must be received by ISAC no later than July 1. ~~Summer term payment requests must be received no later than July 31.~~

(Source: Amended at 36 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)