TITLE 281, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 6

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE ACCESS COLLEGE EARLY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT

Adopted June 9, 2016

AUG 2 2 2016

TITLE 281 – COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
CHAPTER 6 – RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE ACCESS COLLEGE EARLY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT

NUMERICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUBJECT	STATUTORY AUTHORITY	CODE SECTION
Purpose and Objectives	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-2103	001
Statutory Authority	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-1411, 85-1412, and 85-2108	002
Definitions	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-2102	003
Student Application	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-2102, 85-2104, and 85-2105	004
Commission Responsibilities	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-2105, 85-2106	005
Qualified Postsecondary Educational Institution Responsibilities	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-2102, 85-2105, and 85-2106	006
Appeal Process	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-2107	007

AUG 2 2 2016

TITLE 281 – COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
CHAPTER 6 – RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE ACCESS COLLEGE EARLY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT

ALPHABETICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUBJECT	STATUTORY AUTHORITY	CODE SECTION
Appeal Process	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-2107	007
Commission Responsibilities	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-2105, 85-2106	005
Definitions	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-2102	003
Purpose and Objectives	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-2103	001
Qualified Postsecondary Educational Institution Responsibilities	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-2102, 85-2105, and 85-2106	006
Statutory Authority	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-1411, 85-1412, and 85-2108	002
Student Application	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-2102, 85-2104, and 85-2105	004

AUG 2 2 2016

TITLE 281 – COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
CHAPTER 6 – RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE ACCESS COLLEGE EARLY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT

001. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES. The purpose of the Access College Early Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to low-income students for courses to be taken for credit from a qualified postsecondary educational institution while still enrolled in high school.

002. STATUTORY AUTHORITY. This rule is adopted pursuant to authority granted to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-1411, 85-1412, and 85-2108.

003. DEFINITIONS.

003.01 Commission means the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

003.02 Extreme hardship means any event, including but not limited to fire, illness, accident, or job loss, that has recently resulted in a significant financial difficulty for a student or the student's parent or legal guardian.

003.03 Postsecondary educational institution means a two-year or four-year college or university which is a member institution of an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

003.04 Qualified postsecondary educational institution means a postsecondary educational institution located in Nebraska which has agreed, on a form developed and provided by the Commission, to comply with the requirements of the act. The form may be found on the Commission's website.

003.05 Student means a student attending a Nebraska high school with a reasonable expectation that such student will meet the residency requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-502 upon graduation from a Nebraska high school.

003.06 Career program or plan of study means a sequence of at least three high school courses that (a) may include dual-credit or college credit courses, (b) are part of a career pathway program of study aligned with (i) the rules and regulations of the State Department of Education, (ii) a professional certification requirement, or (iii) the requirements for a postsecondary certification or diploma, and (c) have at least one local member of business or industry partnering as an official advisor to the program.

004. STUDENT APPLICATION.

004.01 A student who is applying to take one or more courses for credit from a qualified postsecondary educational institution is eligible for the Access College Early Scholarship Program if:

004.01(A) Such student or the student's parent or legal guardian is eligible to receive:

APPROVED
DOUGLAS J. PETERSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

APPROVED
AUG 2 2 2016
PETE RICKETTS
GOVERNOR

AUG 2 2 2016

AUG 0 1 2016
BY
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

004.01(A)(i) Supplemental Security Income;

004.01(A)(ii) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;

004.01(A)(iii) Free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs;

004.01(A)(iv) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; or

004.01(A)(v) Assistance under the Federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; or

004.01(B) The student or the student's parent or legal guardian has experienced an extreme hardship; or

004.01(C) The student is enrolled in a career program or plan of study and the student's family has an annual household income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

004.02 The student must complete an application developed by the Commission for each term. The Commission shall determine the date when the application process for each term opens. The application may be found on the Commission's website.

004.03 An applicant must submit the completed application to an official designated by the high school.
004.04 The official designated by the high school shall verify the student's eligibility for the scholarship. The official designated by the high school shall forward the application to the Commission for review within 15 days following receipt of the form from the student.

004.05 The student must submit an application prior to the deadline date established by the Commission for each term.

005. COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES.

005.01 The Commission shall verify the student's eligibility under the act by reviewing the submitted application to ensure it has been properly completed.

005.02 The Commission shall notify the student and the official designated by the high school of the verification of eligibility and the award amount in writing within thirty days following receipt of enrollment verification from the postsecondary institution. Notification must be given in writing, whether by U.S. mail or e-mail.

005.03 The Commission shall establish priority dates for each term. Priority shall be given to students applying for the scholarship who meet the requirements in subsection 004.01A and 004.01B.

005.04 The Commission shall credit the amount of any returned scholarship awards to the Access College Early Scholarship Program Fund to provide additional scholarships.

AUG 2 2 2016

006. QUALIFIED POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION RESPONSIBILITIES.

006.01 The qualified postsecondary educational institution agrees to provide the following information required by the Commission to carry out the act:

006.01(A) The course ID;

006.01(B) The course credit hours;
006.01(C) The grade earned for the course; and

006.01(D) The tuition and mandatory fees charged for the course. Should the course be a part of a career program or plan of study, the amount the ACE program will reimburse is the actual charges for tuition and mandatory fees or $250, whichever is less. Otherwise, the amount the ACE program will reimburse is the actual charges for tuition and mandatory fees or an amount equal to the tuition and fees for the same number of credit hours if the student were taking the course as a full-time, resident, undergraduate student from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, whichever is less.

006.02 The Commission may withhold payment of the scholarship award amount from a qualified postsecondary educational institution until the period passes when a student may receive a full refund for withdrawing from a course.

006.02(A) When a student withdraws from a course during the full refund period and the Commission has paid a scholarship award to the qualified postsecondary educational institution, the institution must notify the Commission of the withdrawn course and must refund the scholarship money directly to the Commission.

006.02(B) When a student withdraws from a course after the full refund period and the Commission has paid a scholarship award to the qualified postsecondary educational institution, the institution must refund the scholarship money directly to the Commission pursuant to the institution's refund policy.

006.03 A qualified postsecondary educational institution must provide a refund when an overpayment occurs for a course for which a scholarship was awarded.

006.03(A) When an overpayment exists and the student and/or the student's parent/guardian made a payment on the account, the student and/or the student's parent/guardian must be refunded first, up to the amount paid by such person.

006.03(B) When an overpayment occurs due to a payment from any source other than those identified in 006.03A, the qualified postsecondary educational institution must first refund the overpayment to the Commission, up to the amount paid by the Commission pursuant to the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act.

AUG 2 2 2016

007. APPEAL PROCESS.

007.01 A student or the student's parent or legal guardian may request in writing a review of any adverse decision by requesting such review within 20 days following notice of the adverse decision, addressed to the Executive Director of the Commission. The review shall be pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

APPROVED

AUG 2 2 2016

PETE RICKETTS
GOVERNOR

AUG 2 2 2016

APPROVED
DOUGLAS J. PETERSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

AUG 0 1 2016

BY
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL