



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION

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TO: High School Counselors
FROM: Jane Caldwell
SUBJECT: Changes to the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program

The 79th Legislature, Regular Session, passed a bill that changed some of the eligibility requirements and award amounts for the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program. **The requirements and award amounts now depend on when the student graduated.** These changes went into effect on 9/1/2005. Awards processed prior to that time fell under old program provisions.

For Students who Graduated prior to 9/1/2005:

- ◆ There is no bonus for graduating with college hours.
- ◆ There is no deadline for using the award.
- ◆ A student graduating in 36 months or less, with or without the recommend curriculum, may receive a \$1000 award.
- ◆ A student graduating in more than 36 months is not eligible for an award.

For Students who Graduate on or after 9/1/2005:

- ◆ If graduated in 36 months or less with the recommended curriculum, student may receive \$2000. If he/she also graduated with at least 15 hours of college credit, he/she may receive an additional \$1000.
- ◆ If graduated in 36 months or less without the recommended or advanced curriculum, student may receive \$1000. There is no college hour bonus.
- ◆ If graduated in more than 36 months, but less than 42 months, student may receive \$500. If he/she also graduated with at least 30 hours of college credit, he/she may receive an additional \$1000.
- ◆ If graduated in more than 41 months but less than 46 months, the student receives no "early graduation" award, but if he/she also graduated with at least 30 hours of college credit, he/she may receive an additional \$1000.
- ◆ Students graduating on or after 9/1/2005 have six years of eligibility in which to use their award.

The following chart might show the program changes more clearly. Notice, some students lost eligibility; some gained it.

Students who Graduated prior to 9/1/2003

	Student Group	Prior to this Law		Under the New Law	
		Basic Award	Possible Bonus	Basic Award	Possible Bonus
36 months or less to graduate	Graduated prior to 9/1/2003 with or without RHSC	\$1000 for tuition only	\$0	\$1000 for tuition only	\$0

Students who Graduated between 9/1/2003 and 8/31/2005

Student Group		Prior to this Law		Under the New Law	
36 months or less to graduate		Basic Award	Possible Hour Bonus	Basic Award	Possible Hour Bonus
	Without recommended or advanced curriculum	\$0	\$0	\$1000 for tuition only	\$0
	With recommended or advanced curriculum	\$2000 for tuition & fees	\$1000 for 15 hours for tuition & fees	\$1000 for tuition only	\$0
37 thru 41 mo's	With recommended or advanced curriculum	\$500 for tuition & fees	\$1000 for 30 hours for tuition & fees	\$0	\$0
42 thru 45 mo's	With recommended or advanced curriculum	\$0	\$1000 for 30 hours for tuition & fees	\$0	\$0

These changes (highlighted) went into effect on 9/1/2005, and did not impact awards processed prior to that date. So, students graduating between 9/1/2003 and 8/31/2005 whose awards were processed prior to 9/1/2005 fell under the old provisions.

In addition, our office was unaware of these legislative changes until 11/22/2005, and therefore processed awards up until that date based on old provisions. We will not revoke the awards processed by mistake under the old provisions, but will impose the new provisions on all awards made on/after 11/22/2005.

Students who Graduate on or after 9/1/2005

Student Group		Prior to this Law		Under the New Law	
36 months or less to graduate		Basic Award	Possible Hour Bonus	Basic Award	Possible Hour Bonus
	Without recommended or advanced curriculum	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	With recommended or advanced curriculum	\$2000 for tuition & fees	\$1000 for 15 hours for tuition & fees	\$2000 for tuition & fees	\$1000 for 15 hours for tuition & fees
37 thru 41 mo's	With recommended or advanced curriculum	\$500 for tuition & fees	\$1000 for 30 hours for tuition & fees	\$500 for tuition & fees	\$1000 for 30 hours for tuition & fees
42 thru 45 mo's	With recommended or advanced curriculum	\$0	\$1000 for 30 hours for tuition & fees	\$0	\$1000 for 30 hours for tuition & fees

If you have any questions, please contact Sabrina Henry at sabrina.henry@theqb.state.tx.us or contact me at jane.caldwell@theqb.state.tx.us .