I. Introduction

The 2005 North Carolina General Assembly amended the 2003 NC General Assembly legislation (GS §116-238.1) that created the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Tuition Grant. The NCSSM Tuition Grant provides encouragement and financial assistance to graduates of the NCSSM who will be attending one of the 16 campuses of the University of North Carolina through a program administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (the Authority). Funding of this grant is contingent each year upon appropriations made available to the Authority by the General Assembly.

The financial aid administrators of the 16 constituent institutions of UNC participate in the administration of the program by screening, reviewing, and selecting recipients under the criteria and rules established by the Authority, consistent with the intent of the General Assembly.

II. Selection Eligibility

To be a recipient of a NCSSM Tuition Grant, a student must:

1) be a graduate of the NCSSM;

2) meet the requirements for in-state tuition under G. S. §116-143.1 or §116-143.3 as those requirements are specified and interpreted in the Residence Manual;

3) be enrolled full-time as an undergraduate in one of the 16 campuses of UNC in a degree-granting program; and

4) maintain “satisfactory academic progress” as defined by the campus for financial aid renewal.

Students are eligible for the grant for four consecutive academic years, excluding summer sessions.

If an eligible student as defined above participates in a Cooperative Education Program (Co-op) and the institution classifies the student as enrolled full-time for that semester, then the
student will be eligible for a NCSSM Tuition Grant in the amount of the direct institutional charges up to the cost of tuition. This grant will count as one of the eight authorized grants available in this program. Summer Co-ops are not eligible for the grant.

If an eligible student as defined above participates in a Study Abroad Program through an institution of the UNC system or with a consortium agreement with a non-UNC institution and the student is enrolled full-time for that semester, then the student will be eligible for a NCSSM Tuition Grant in the amount of tuition only. This grant will count as one of the eight authorized grants in this program. Summer Study Abroad programs are not eligible for the grant.

If an eligible student, as defined above, is unable to attend a semester due to a documented extraordinary circumstance (i.e., a medical condition) as determined by the institution’s financial aid office, the student will maintain future eligibility for the tuition grant if the student enrolls during the subsequent academic year. NC GS § 116-238.1 permits eligibility for four consecutive academic years; therefore, non-enrollment for an entire academic year will result in forfeiture of the remaining grant. Circumstances that are within the control of the student (i.e., failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress) are not considered to be extraordinary circumstances.

III. Value of Tuition Grant

The NCSSM Tuition Grant provides that graduates of NCSSM receive a grant equal to the cost of tuition for attendance at one of the 16 campuses of the UNC system. The grant will be reduced or eliminated if a student receives scholarship or grant assistance from other sources that in combination with the NCSSM Tuition Grant exceed the student’s cost of attendance as defined by the campus financial aid office. Please note that the cost of attendance is different for each campus.
IV. Application Procedure

NCSSM students must submit the NCSSM Scholarship Release Form to the Counseling Services Office at NCSSM authorizing them and the Authority to release information to the campus identified by the student. If a student decides to attend a different UNC campus after NCSSM has sent the roster to the Authority, the student is responsible for notifying the new campus financial aid office (FAO) of his/her eligibility. The roster will list the student’s name, home address, SSN, birth date, and the UNC campus he/she plans to attend.

In May, the Authority will send a roster of potential graduates to each campus FAO listing those students who plan to enroll at their campus. The FAO will coordinate each student’s financial aid package, adjusting the NCSSM Tuition Grant with regard to other known scholarships and grants. Adjustments will be made during the academic year when a student receives additional scholarships/grants funding.

If the FAO determines the student is not eligible for the NCSSM Tuition Grant due to other aid, the FAO will notify the student stating the reason.

V. Renewal of Tuition Grant

No application is required for renewal. Each UNC campus FAO will determine the student’s eligibility and the grant amount for the next year after the conclusion of the spring semester.

VI. Notification and Funds Disbursement

Procedure for the fall semester.

1. NCSSM will transmit to the Authority a roster of graduating students who have designated that they plan to attend one of the 16 UNC campuses. This roster will provide the student’s name, social security number, birth date, home address and the campus he/she plans to attend.
2. The Authority will contact the student at his/her home address to inform that:
   - he/she may be eligible for the NCSSM Tuition Grant less any other grants or scholarships received,
   - the FAO at the UNC campus he/she attends will determine the amount of the tuition grant under these guidelines, and
   - notification of the exact amount will be on the student’s award letter from the campus FAO.

3. The Authority will group the students by campus from the NCSSM roster and forward the roster to the appropriate campus FAO with instructions that students on the roster are eligible to receive a NCSSM Tuition Grant, provided the student does not exceed his/her cost of attendance. If the whole NCSSM Tuition Grant or any portion would cause the student to exceed the cost of attendance, the whole or pro rated grant will be returned to the Authority.

   Those students who received the grant in the previous semester must be reviewed and, if eligible, added to the roster before returning it to the Authority. Students who did not receive a grant due to other aid that is no longer available may be re-instated provided that they maintained consecutive semester enrollment and eligibility.

4. Once the rosters are received by the Authority from the campus, the Authority will request checks for each campus from UNC Office of the President, Accounting Office. The accounting office will mail a check to each campus FAO.

Procedure for the spring semester.

1. The campus FAO will review the fall roster for updates and send the updated fall roster to the Authority for the spring payment. The update will add/delete any student that was eligible/ineligible for the spring semester due to re-instating a lost grant, transfer, or deferment. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the campus FAO of his/her eligibility.

2. Once the rosters are received by the Authority from the campus, the Authority will request checks for each campus from UNC Office of the President, Accounting Office. The accounting office will mail a check to each campus FAO.

   In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible student with a full grant, each student shall receive a pro rata share of available funds from the current appropriation. The UNC Board of Governors, with Office of State Budget and Management approval, may transfer funds to meet the financial requirement.
VII. Refunds

The campus FAO must refund NCSSM Tuition Grant funds to the Authority if a student receives additional grants and scholarships that exceed the student’s cost of attendance.

VIII. Deferments

To be eligible to receive the NCSSM Tuition Grant, students must enroll at one of the UNC campuses within 18 months of graduating from NCSSM. Students, who do not enroll at one of the UNC campuses for the fall semester immediately following graduation from NCSSM, bear the responsibility for notifying the campus FAO of their potential grant eligibility. Students who initially enroll in colleges or universities other than one of the 16 UNC campuses will not be eligible for the NCSSM Tuition Grant.

IX. Transfers

A student may transfer among the 16 campuses of the UNC system provided that his/her enrollment is continuous from one semester to another, not including summer sessions. Students are responsible for notifying the campus FAO at both institutions of the transfer. Students who initially enroll in colleges or universities other than one of the 16 UNC campuses will not be eligible for the grant if they subsequently transfer to a UNC campus.

X. Retention of Rosters and Forms

The Authority will maintain the rosters according to the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule established by UNC General Administration.

The NCSSM Scholarship Release Form will be maintained by the NCSSM document retention standards.
XI. Reports

An annual report will be prepared as of June 30 of the current academic year by the Authority to include, but not limited to, the number of students who benefited, the institutions attended, and the amount of grant monies disbursed. This report will be distributed in accordance with the NC General Statutes.