



**Rules Governing the  
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics  
Tuition Grant Program**

A Program of the State of North Carolina  
Administered by the State Education Assistance Authority  
2 UNC-TV Drive  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PART I.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SHORT TITLE, PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
.0100. Short Title. ....	3
.0101. The Program and its Purpose. ....	3
.0102. Definitions.....	3
<b>PART II.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
.0200. Student Eligibility.....	5
<b>PART III.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>APPLICATION, TUITION GRANT AMOUNT AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
.0300. Application.....	6
.0301. Tuition Grant Amount.....	6
.0302. Limitation on Eligibility. ....	6
.0303. Transfers between Approved Institutions.....	7
<b>PART IV .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>APPROVED INSTITUTIONS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
.0400. Responsibilities of Approved Institutions.....	8
.0401. Tuition Grant Disbursement Procedures.....	8
.0402. Audit Requirements.....	9
.0403. Inspection of Records. ....	9
<b>PART V .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.....</b>	<b>10</b>
.0500. The Authority as Program Administrator. ....	10
.0501. Interpretive Guidance.....	10

## **PART I**

### **SHORT TITLE, PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS**

#### **.0100. Short Title.**

The Rules Governing the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Tuition Grant Program may hereinafter be cited by the State Education Assistance Authority and referred to as the "Program Rules."

#### **.0101. The Program and its Purpose.**

The Program was authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2018 to provide grants to certain graduates of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics who enroll as an undergraduate student at a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as defined in G.S. § 116-2(4). The Authority administers the Program as directed by the General Assembly, and funding for the grants is generally contingent on appropriations made available to the Authority for the Program.

#### **.0102. Definitions.**

Unless the context clearly indicates some other meaning, the following capitalized words and phrases shall have the corresponding meanings in the Program Rules:

- (a) "Academic Year" means a combination of school terms consisting of two semesters, three trimesters, or the equivalent thereof, beginning with the fall term of any year and excluding any summer term.
- (b) "Approved Institution" means a postsecondary constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as defined in G.S. § 116-2(4).
- (c) "Authority" means the State Education Assistance Authority, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, created and enabled under Part 1 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- (d) "Authorized School Official" means the person who is designated by the chief executive officer of the Approved Institution to administer the Program for the Approved Institution.

- (e) "Cost of Attendance" means a student's total cost of attending a postsecondary institution as defined in Section 472 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1087II).
- (f) "Full-time" means enrolled in twelve (12) or more credit hours per semester or the equivalent thereof.
- (g) "NCSSM" means the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics operating as a constituent high school of The University of North Carolina pursuant to G.S. § 116-231.
- (h) "Program" means the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Tuition Grant Program.
- (i) "Satisfactory Academic Progress" means the standard or standards by which an Approved Institution measures a Student's academic progress towards the completion of his or her baccalaureate degree.
- (j) "State" means the State of North Carolina.
- (k) "Student" means a first-time candidate for a baccalaureate degree who receives a Tuition Grant under the Program in accordance with the Program Rules.
- (l) "Tuition Grant" means the financial aid, which is the standard cost of tuition at the Approved Institution for a full-time student who is a North Carolina resident, provided to a Student under the Program.

## **PART II**

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

#### **.0200. Student Eligibility.**

An applicant for a Tuition Grant is eligible to be considered for funding if, as of the date of the application, the applicant:

- (a) Is expected to graduate from NCSSM in a school year designated by the North Carolina General Assembly as eligible for a Tuition Grant;
- (b) Qualifies as a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes under G.S. § 116-143.1 at the time of enrollment in the Approved Institution;
- (c) Is accepted for enrollment Full-time as a first-time candidate for a baccalaureate degree program at an Approved Institution for the Academic Year immediately following graduation from NCSSM;
- (d) Has complied with the registration requirements of the Military Selective Service Act or is exempt from the registration requirements; and
- (e) Is not in default, or does not owe a refund, under any federal or state loan or grant program.



## **PART III**

### **APPLICATION, TUITION GRANT AMOUNT AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

#### **.0300. Application.**

- (a) *Application.* An applicant for a Tuition Grant under the Program must complete and submit an application provided by the Authority by the application deadline.
- (b) *Application Deadline.* The Authority may set the application deadline for the Program for each Academic Year. An application for a Tuition Grant received after the applicable deadline may not be considered for a Tuition Grant.
- (c) *Responsibility to Update an Application.*
  - (i) *Before Approval.* If, at any time before an applicant is approved for a Tuition Grant, and any information presented on the applicant's application changes, the applicant is responsible for notifying the NCSSM and the Authority of any such change.
  - (ii) *After Approval.* If, at any time after an applicant is approved for a Tuition Grant and any information presented on the applicant's application changes, the applicant is responsible for notifying the financial aid office of the Approved Institution that the Student plans or planned to attend and the Authority of any such change.

#### **.0301. Tuition Grant Amount.**

- (a) Each Tuition Grant shall be for the cost of tuition only at the Approved Institution.
- (b) If funds appropriated for the Tuition Grants, or otherwise made available to the Authority for the Program, are not sufficient to pay each Student's full Tuition Grant, a uniform pro rata reduction may be applied to the amount of the Tuition Grant for all Students.

#### **.0302. Limitation on Eligibility.**

- (a) A Student may not receive a Tuition Grant to attend an Approved Institution for more than the Academic Year immediately following the Student's graduation from NCSSM. This limitation applies even if the Student did not receive full funding for any part of such Academic Year.

- (b) A Student may not receive a Tuition Grant in an amount that, when combined with the total amount of financial aid for which such student is eligible, exceeds the Student's Cost of Attendance.

**.0303. Transfers between Approved Institutions.**

- (a) Eligibility for a Tuition Grant under the Program is transferable from one Approved Institution to another Approved Institution provided that:
  - (1) The Student meets the eligibility requirements of Part II of the Program Rules;
  - (2) His or her enrollment is continuous from one semester to the other;
  - (3) The Authority approves the transfer; and
  - (4) The Student notifies the financial aid office at both Approved Institutions of the transfer.
- (b) A Student may lose eligibility for the Tuition Grant if he or she transfers from one Approved Institution to another Approved Institution without the approval of the Authority.
- (c) The Authority will not approve a transfer of a Student's Tuition Grant from one Approved Institution to another Approved Institution unless the Student is making Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- (d) A Student who initially enrolls in a college or university other than one of the Approved Institutions cannot become eligible for the Tuition Grant by subsequently transferring to an Approved Institution.

## PART IV

### INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

#### **.0400. Responsibilities of Approved Institutions.**

An Approved Institution shall be responsible for:

- (a) Designating an Authorized School Official as the primary contact between the Approved Institution and the Authority and charging that person with the primary responsibility for executing the Approved Institution's responsibilities under the Program Rules.
- (b) Complying with the Tuition Grant disbursement procedures;
- (c) Complying with the refund procedures;
- (d) Determining residency status for Program eligibility; and
- (e) Certifying, in a manner acceptable to the Authority, that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for a Tuition Grant under the Program Rules.

#### **.0401. Tuition Grant Disbursement Procedures.**

- (a) *Method of Disbursement.* The Authority shall disburse the proceeds of a Tuition Grant by master check or by electronic funds transfer based on information provided by the Approved Institution. Upon receipt of the Tuition Grant funds from the Authority, the Approved Institution shall deposit the funds into a separate general ledger account within the Approved Institution's accounting system identified as the "NCSSM Tuition Grant Program Account."
- (b) *Roster Required.* A roster identifying the Students and the Tuition Grant amount for each Student will be sent to the Approved Institution at the time of the master check or electronic funds transfer.
- (c) *Timing of Disbursements.* Disbursements may be made on a semester basis.
- (d) *Posting of Disbursements.* The Approved Institution shall post the Tuition Grant amount to each Student's account within ten (10) business days after the receipt of the roster or within ten (10) business days after the beginning date of the term for which the proceeds of the Tuition Grant were disbursed, whichever is later.
- (e) *Refund Procedure.* Tuition Grant funds that are not disbursed to the Student shall be returned to the Authority within thirty (30) days of the beginning date of the term for



which the funds were issued, or thirty (30) days from the Date of Disbursement, whichever is later.

- (f) *Certification of Receipts*. The Approved Institution shall certify the Student's eligibility for the Program and certify that Tuition Grant funds received by master check or electronic funds transfer have been credited to the Student's account.

**.0402 Refund of Scholarship Funds to the Authority.**

Approved Institutions shall comply with the Authority's policies for return of funds for State-funded grant programs.

**.0403 Audit Requirements.**

Each Approved Institution shall be subject to examination by the Authority and audit by the State Auditor to determine, among other things, whether the Approved Institution has complied with the Program Rules and all applicable laws and regulations.

**.0404. Inspection of Records.**

Each Approved Institution shall make all Program records available to the Authority and the State Auditor for inspection upon request. All Program records must be retained by the Approved Institution for a period of five years or until any audit exceptions have been resolved, whichever is later.

## **PART V**

### **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

#### **.0500. The Authority as Program Administrator.**

The Authority is authorized and directed to develop, adopt and implement such policies, procedures and forms as necessary from time to time in order for the Authority to administer the Program in accordance with the Program Rules and in compliance with applicable State law.

#### **.0501. Interpretive Guidance.**

The Authority may, from time to time, issue guidance for interpreting the Program Rules in the form of policy memoranda or questions and answers. All interpretive guidance shall have the force and effect of the Program Rules.

I, Elizabeth V. McDuffie, Executive Director and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the State Education Assistance Authority, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the Rules Governing the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Tuition Grant Program as adopted by the Board of Directors of the Authority, and as approved as final pursuant to the authority delegated to me; these Rules are in full force and effect and have not been amended or rescinded.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Authority, this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

  
Elizabeth V. McDuffie  
Executive Director and Secretary of the Board of Directors