



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 91
[2017 Assembly Bill 266]

**Eligibility for the Technical
Excellence in Higher Education
Scholarship Program**

2017 Wisconsin Act 91 (“the Act”) makes certain changes to the eligibility requirements for a Technical Excellence in Higher Education scholarship and the ability of a scholarship recipient (“scholar”) to regain eligibility for a scholarship.

BACKGROUND

The Higher Educational Aids Board (“HEAB”) awards Technical Excellence in Higher Education Scholarships to eligible high school seniors with the highest levels of proficiency in technical education subjects. The amount of the scholarship is up to \$2,250 per academic year for up to three years. The scholarships may only be used at a Wisconsin technical college within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS).

2017 WISCONSIN ACT 91

Initial Scholarship Eligibility

A student must meet certain requirements to qualify for an initial scholarship, such as enrollment in a participating WTCS school by September 30th of the academic year in which he or she was nominated. Under **prior law**, an eligible high school senior had to be enrolled on a full-time basis in a participating WTCS school by September 30th of the academic year in which he or she was nominated, among other requirements.

The Act changes this requirement and instead requires a student or scholar to enroll for “at least 6 credits” in a participating WTCS school by September 30th of the academic year in which he or she was nominated, among other requirements.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

Subsequent Scholarship Eligibility

A scholar must meet certain requirements to maintain eligibility for the scholarship in subsequent academic years. Under **prior law**, a scholar had to maintain full-time enrollment in a participating WTCS school and make satisfactory progress toward an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, or a vocational diploma, among other requirements. Under prior law, a scholar who met these eligibility requirements was eligible to receive a subsequent scholarship in either the year subsequent to a scholarship receipt, or in the second year following the year in which the scholar received a scholarship.

The Act requires that a scholar enroll in a participating WTCS school for "at least 6 credits" and requires the participating WTCS school to certify a scholar's academic progress toward an associate degree, a bachelor's degree or a vocational diploma. Under the Act, a scholar who meets these eligibility requirements is eligible to receive a subsequent scholarship in either the year subsequent to a scholarship receipt, or in the semester immediately following the year subsequent to a scholarship receipt.

Ability to Regain Scholarship Eligibility

The Act creates a new provision that allows a scholar to regain eligibility if he or she fails to maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 or the equivalent. The Act provides that a scholar is eligible to receive a subsequent scholarship for the year immediately following a year where the following conditions are met: (1) the scholar enrolls for at least six credits; (2) the scholar's grade point average increases to at least 3.0; and (3) the participating WTCS school certifies that the scholar has made satisfactory academic progress.

Effective date: The Act took effect on December 2, 2017, and initially applies to students who enroll for the semester following the effective date.

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