



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 575 HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCESS AND COMPLETION

FILED

10/17/2025 3:13 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Modifying eligibility requirements for Oregon Teacher Scholars Program

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 11/25/2025 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

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Filed By:
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HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 11/18/2025

TIME: 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM

OFFICER: Guthrie Stafford

REMOTE HEARING DETAILS

MEETING URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

PHONE NUMBER: 1-503-446-4951

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Conference ID code: 735 343 553#

NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

575-066-0002 - The need for amending this rule is to reference the definition of "Diverse" to ORS 342.433. Additionally, it clarifies and adds definitions for eligible institution, half-time enrollment, full-time enrollment, residency, teacher candidate to align with both Teacher Standards and Practices Commission language and other HECC definitions for financial aid administration.

575-066-0006 - The need for amending this rule is to correct the language as the eligible teacher preparation programs will be published by the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission and not the HECC. The amended rule also removes the language that a student must meet be diverse to be eligible for the grant, and amends the language that a student must have experience with diverse populations.

575-066-0007 - The need for adopting this rule is to allow students who were awarded prior to the program changing with HB 3026 to continue to be renewal eligible after the program changes.

575-066-0011 - The need for amending this rule is to allow the HECC to prioritize the awarding to students based on

their financial need and those who are close to completion if funding is insufficient to award a grant to each eligible student.

575-066-0016 - The need for amending this rule is to implement statutory language from HB 3026 (2025) that students must present information relating to their experience with diverse populations as part of their application for the grant.

575-066-0021 - The reason for adopting this rule is to outline record keeping requirements for eligible Oregon colleges and universities relating to student records pertaining to the OTSP program. This adopted rule would also allow the HECC to review students records who are participating in the program to ensure the school is in compliance with the program. The language aligns with other financial aid programs administered by HECC.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

None.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

The Legislature’s amendment of ORS 348.295 altered the law governing the Oregon Teachers Scholars Program to change eligibility criteria from qualifying individuals who are culturally and linguistically diverse to individuals who have cultural and linguistic diversity experiences. This may shift some scholarship funds, which previously were awarded to culturally and linguistically diverse individuals, including individuals from Black, Hispanic, Native American populations, immigrant communities and others that have been historically underrepresented in the teaching profession, to a wider group of applicants. Because program funds remain constant, this change may reduce the number of scholarship funds dedicated to supporting such individuals.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

This permanent approval of currently effective temporary rules will expand eligibility for the existing scholarship program. This expansion of eligibility is expected to have a slightly negative fiscal impact on the HECC agency associated with increased administrative costs of reviewing applicant eligibility.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

(1) There is a minor increased administration cost to the HECC agency related to the ongoing labor of the program administrator and other staff as they review the essays submitted.

(2)(a) No impacted is expected. Small businesses are not subject to this rule.

(b) No additional impact is expected. The program already reported data and kept records of applicants and awardees.

(c) No additional impact is expected.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were not involved in the development of these rules.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Staff consulted with the HECC Student Financial Aid Advisory Committee, and the Educator Advancement Council.

RULES PROPOSED:

575-066-0002, 575-066-0006, 575-066-0007, 575-066-0011, 575-066-0016, 575-066-0021

AMEND: 575-066-0002

RULE SUMMARY: This rule defines the terms used throughout the Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 575, Division 66.

CHANGES TO RULE:

575-066-0002

Definitions

- (1) "Academic Year." A period of time, normally beginning in August or September, in which a student would normally be expected to complete at least half-time instruction or the equivalent.¶
- (2) "Approved educator preparation provider" means an entity that meets the standards of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission for preparation of licensed ~~educator~~ teacher candidates for preprimary programs through grade 12.¶
- (3) "Commission" ~~means the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.~~¶
- (4) "Diverse" ~~means culturally or linguistically diverse characteristics of a person, including:~~¶
- (a) ~~Origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa but is not Hispanic;~~¶
- (b) ~~Hispanic culture or origin;~~ Approved educator preparation program" means a licensure program that prepares students to become educators in any grade from preprimary through grade 12, is offered by an approved educator prep regardless of race;¶
- (c) ~~Origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the Pacific Islands;~~ ation provider and meets the standards of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.¶
- (d) ~~Origins in any of the original peoples of North America, including American Indians or Alaskan Natives; or~~¶
- (e) ~~A first language that is not English~~ "Commission" means the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.¶
- (5) "Diverse" has the meaning given that term in ORS 342.433.¶
- (56) "Eligible institution" is any institution that has an approved educator preparation ~~provider~~ program as defined in ORS 342.120.¶
- (67) "Good standing" means the qualified student is maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the eligible institution ~~in accordance with federal Title IV regulations and guidelines.~~¶
- (8) "Half-Time Enrollment" Is registration and payment of required fees as a half-time student, at an eligible institution or combination of eligible institutions, based on standard enrollment ranges at the institution in accordance with the program of study in which the student is enrolled.¶
- (79) "HalfFull-Time Enrollment" ~~Is registration and payment of required fees as a halffull-time student, at an eligible institution or combination of eligible institutions, based on 6 to 11 credit hours per academic term~~ standard enrollment ranges at the institution in accordance with the program of study in which the student is enrolled.¶
- (810) "Resident of Oregon." For purposes of the Oregon Teachers Scholars Program, residency is established by virtue of the student (in the case of independent students) or the student's parent (in the case of dependent students) having been in continuous residency in this state for the 12 months preceding enrollment in an eligible program in an eligible institution in Oregon.¶
- (911) "Teacher candidate" means an individual who is ~~preparing to be a teacher or other school professional licensed,~~ ursuing their preliminary licensure for teaching, school counseling, school social work or school psychology in a program registered or certified by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission. "Teacher candidate" does not mean an individual who is preparing to be an administrator.
- Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 348.295, ~~SB 182 (2017), HB 3178 (2023)~~
- Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 348.295, ~~SB 182 (2017), HB 3178 (2023)~~

AMEND: 575-066-0006

RULE SUMMARY: This rule establishes student eligibility requirements for the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

575-066-0006

Student Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible, a student must:

- (1) Be enrolled and in good standing in an eligible institution;
- (2) Be enrolled as a teacher candidate in an approved educator preparation provider program, which will be published by the Commission prior to the applicable academic year; and
- (3) Have experience with diverse populations, as determined by the Commission, which experience may include, but is not limited to, work, service projects, volunteering, immersive cultural or linguistic experiences, the study of language(s) and cultures, and the study of history of diverse populations;
- (4) Submit a complete Oregon Teacher Scholars Program application by the deadline published by the Commission;
- (5) ~~Me~~Complete the definition of diverse in OAR 575-067-0001 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) by the deadline published by the Commission; and
- (46) Be an Oregon resident.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 348.295, SB 182 (2017), HB 3178 (2023)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 348.295, SB 182 (2017), HB 3178 (2023)

ADOPT: 575-066-0007

RULE SUMMARY: This rule allows eligible renewal students who met the prior criteria to remain eligible for the grant after the rule changes are implemented, if they continue to meet the deadlines and have remaining eligibility.

CHANGES TO RULE:

575-066-0007

Temporary Special Eligibility for Certain Renewal Students

Subject to the conditions of awards established in ORS 575-066-0011 and notwithstanding the eligibility requirements established in ORS 575-066-0006, a student who received a grant in the 2024-25 aid year or a prior year shall be eligible for the grant if the student:

(1) Is enrolled and in good standing in an eligible institution;

(2) Is enrolled as a teacher candidate in an approved educator preparation program, as listed by the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission;

(3) Submits a complete Oregon Teacher Scholars Program application by the deadline published by the Commission;

(4) Completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) by the deadline published by the Commission; and;

(5) Is an Oregon resident.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 348.295

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 348.295

AMEND: 575-066-0011

RULE SUMMARY: This rule establishes the conditions required of eligible applicants to meet to be awarded the grant.

CHANGES TO RULE:

575-066-0011

Conditions of Awards

(1) A Student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as at least a half-time student at an eligible institution.[¶]

(2) The Educator Advancement Council and the Oregon Educator Equity Advisory Group will select award recipients.^{¶¶}

(3) Scholarships awarded through this program shall be in the amount of \$12,000 per academic year, for a maximum equivalent of two completed academic years. Award amounts will be prorated for a student who is enrolled at least half-time but less than full-time.[¶]

(3) Prior to the start of the fall term of each academic year, the Commission shall determine whether moneys available to the Commission are sufficient to award a grant to all eligible students. If the Commission determines insufficient moneys are available, the Commission shall prioritize:[¶]

(a) First, renewing prior recipients in support of their completion. Renewal will be prioritized. If the funding is insufficient to award all renewal students, then awarding will be prioritized by the federally calculated need-analysis from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). If funds are insufficient to award all renewal students with the greatest financial need, then priority will be given to those who submitted a completed application first. A completed application means the person submitted both the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program application and either the FAFSA or ORSAA.[¶]

(b) Second, new students with the greatest financial need, based on the student's federally calculated need-analysis from the FAFSA or ORSAA. If funds are insufficient to award those with the greatest financial need, then priority will be given to those who submitted a complete application first. A completed application means the person submitted both the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program application and either the FAFSA or ORSAA.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 348.295, ~~HB 3178 (2023)~~

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 348.295, ~~HB 3178 (2023)~~

AMEND: 575-066-0016

RULE SUMMARY: This rule outlines the application process and requirements for the grant.

CHANGES TO RULE:

575-066-0016

Application Process

(1) Students shall complete and submit an Oregon ~~Office of Student Access and Completion Scholarship~~ Teacher Scholars Program application by the published deadline, which is to be determined by the Commission, prior to the academic year they are enrolling. The deadline is 11:59 pm (PST or PDT). If a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it will automatically be extended to 11:59 pm (PST or PDT) on the following business day.¶

(2) ~~Students shall complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) for each academic year~~ must provide information demonstrating their experiences with diverse populations, which experience may include, but is not limited to, work, service projects, volunteering, immersive cultural or linguistic experiences, the study of language(s) and cultures, and the study of history of diverse populations. , Students must also provide information about how their experience with diverse populations impacted their cultural competency and how their experiences with diverse populations will inform their future teaching career. Students must sign their application attesting to the truth and accuracy their application and their experiences with diverse populations. ¶

(3) Students shall complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) for each academic year by the published deadline determined by the Commission.¶

(4) The Commission shall examine applications to determine if the applicants have met the application criteria in Sections (1), (2), and (3) of this rule and the student eligibility requirements in OAR 575-066-0006.¶

(5) Upon review of an application, if the Commission has cause to believe a student has submitted false information, the Commission may request a student submit information necessary to validate such student's experience with diverse populations.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 348.295, ~~SB 182 (2017), HB 3178 (2023)~~

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 348.295, ~~SB 182 (2017), HB 3178 (2023)~~

ADOPT: 575-066-0021

RULE SUMMARY: This rule establishes the requirements for maintaining student records in regards to the program and ensures that records can be examined by the HECC for program compliance.

CHANGES TO RULE:

575-066-0021

Record Keeping

(1) Each institution shall maintain sufficient records to document its activities relating to the program.¶

(2) Each institution shall make its academic and financial records available to the Commission at reasonable times for the purpose of assuring that the institution is complying with the rules relating to the administration of the program.¶

(3) Institutions shall retain the academic and financial records relevant to a disbursement of state grant funds for not less than three years following the end of the fiscal year in which that disbursement occurs.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 348.295

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 348.295