

ASSEMBLY, No. 4115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 7, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Jasey, Murphy, Downey and Senator Turner

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies that certain students are eligible for NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship upon initial enrollment at institution of higher education on part-time basis.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II
2 Programs and amending P.L.2008, c.124 and P.L.2005, c.359.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2) is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 3. a. A student who receives an NJ STARS scholarship shall
10 be eligible to take less than 12 credits in the final semester if the
11 county college determines that the student needs to complete less
12 than 12 credits in that semester to complete the degree program.

13 b. In the case of a student who is enrolled in an associate
14 degree program regularly requiring six semesters, the student shall
15 not receive an NJ STARS scholarship for the sixth semester but
16 shall maintain eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition
17 Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program
18 established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.),
19 provided that the student meets the requirements for receipt of an
20 NJ STARS II scholarship.

21 c. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student **【**who
22 receives an NJ STARS scholarship or a student who is already in
23 the NJ STARS program**】** shall be eligible to participate in the NJ
24 STARS program and take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the
25 student provides to the county college a written note from a
26 physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the
27 student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical
28 or mental health condition; or the student provides to the county
29 college, in such form as determined by the authority, verification of
30 the recent death of the student's parent or spouse. To receive an NJ
31 STARS payment for the semester, a student who receives a medical
32 exemption or an exemption due to the recent death of the student's
33 parent or spouse from the full-time course of study requirement
34 pursuant to this subsection shall enroll for a minimum of six credits
35 in the semester. A student shall receive an additional semester of
36 NJ STARS eligibility for each semester the student receives an
37 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant
38 to this subsection, not to exceed five additional semesters.

39 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.2)

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41 2. Section 4 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.4) is amended
42 to read as follows:

43 4. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
44 applied toward the cost of tuition or in the case of a student who
45 receives a Tuition Aid Grant toward the cost of tuition and fees,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 subject to the prior application of other grants and scholarships
2 against such costs as provided under paragraph (2) of subsection e.
3 of this section, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course
4 of study at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
5 of higher education. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program
6 shall be paid to the institution in the amount of \$1,250 per semester.
7 The cost of a scholarship shall be paid 100% by the State. Any cost
8 of attendance that is not covered by the NJ STARS II scholarship or
9 other available forms of grants and scholarships shall be paid by the
10 student.

11 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
12 STARS II Program for up to four semesters, excluding summer
13 sessions, at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
14 of higher education.

15 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
16 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study
17 if the student: has an annual family income, both taxable and non-
18 taxable, as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student
19 Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year, of less than \$250,000; attained
20 an associate's degree from a New Jersey county college; except as
21 otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 and
22 subsection b. of section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2),
23 received a scholarship under the "New Jersey Student Tuition
24 Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program Act,"
25 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), for each semester of study
26 in the county college, or was eligible for but did not receive a
27 scholarship under NJ STARS because the student's tuition was fully
28 covered by other State or federal need-based grants or merit
29 scholarships, or was eligible for but did not receive a scholarship
30 under NJ STARS because the student was enrolled while a high
31 school student in county college courses and received an associate's
32 degree in accordance with a joint program offered by the student's
33 school district and a county college; attains a cumulative grade
34 point average of at least 3.25 upon graduation from county college;
35 enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New Jersey four-year
36 public or independent institution of higher education for the third
37 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following
38 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the
39 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits
40 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this
41 subsection be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade
42 point average.

43 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
44 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
45 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
46 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
47 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance

1 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
2 average of at least 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in
3 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a
4 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be
5 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
6 preceding academic year.

7 e. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS
8 II Program, a student shall:

9 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
10 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,
11 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a
12 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to
13 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a
14 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for an NJ
15 STARS II scholarship;

16 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
17 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
18 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
19 applied to tuition, and fee charges if applicable, to reduce the
20 amount of any scholarship that the student shall receive under the
21 provisions of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.);

22 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection h. of
23 this section, be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year
24 public or independent institution of higher education; and

25 (4) maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of
26 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a
27 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave
28 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave
29 shall have been approved by the four-year public or independent
30 institution of higher education, or unless called to partial or full
31 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
32 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
33 United States.

34 f. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
35 reasons from a four-year public or independent institution of higher
36 education shall no longer be eligible for a scholarship under this
37 act. If a student participating in the program is dismissed for
38 disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full all amounts
39 received under the program. The four-year public or independent
40 institution of higher education shall be responsible for collecting the
41 repayment, or the amount of any overpayment or other improper
42 payment, of any State awards under the program, in accordance
43 with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-10.

44 g. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program may
45 be renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid
46 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the
47 requirements pursuant to this section.

A4115 BENSON, DEANGELO

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1 enacted was unclear on whether students could receive a
2 scholarship when they were enrolling for the first time at a county
3 college or four-year college or university on a part-time basis.