



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

May 18, 2023

State Aid Policy Revisions

In response to 2023 legislative changes and the need for additional clarity among state aid policies, the Commissioner's Office proposes the creation of five new policies, revising eight existing policies, and retiring seven policies. The five new policies will provide guidance for new state aid programs, the eight revised policies will update and provide greater clarity for existing programs, and the elimination of seven policies will remove outdated information. The following summarizes each proposed change:

New Policies (5)

- R627, First Responder Mental Health Services Grant
[H.B. 278](#) of the 2023 Legislative General Session created a program that grants up to \$6,000 per year for certain first responders to enroll in a program to become a mental health therapist.
- R625, International Internship Scholarship Pilot Program
The Legislature funded a pilot scholarship program that awards up to \$5,000 towards the cost of an international internship experience to eligible students who demonstrate financial need.
- R607, Prime Program Grant
[H.B. 318](#) of the 2023 Legislative General Session created a \$500 one-time scholarship for high school students earning a TRANSFORM certificate through the USBE PRIME program by completing five concurrent enrollment courses in different disciplines or a career and technical education program that is at least 300 hours or six courses.
- R617, Karen Mayne Public Safety Officer Scholarship Program
[S.B. 128](#) of the 2023 Legislative General Session created a scholarship of up to \$5,000 per year for tuition, fees, books, and POST certification for aspiring law enforcement officers seeking relevant courses of study who commit to working in law enforcement for at least five years after POST certification.
- R628, WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program
A program funded by an annual legislative appropriation that supports Utah residents who enroll in select out-of-state professional programs that are unavailable at USHE institutions, as outlined in [Utah Code 53B-4-101](#).

Revised Policies (8)

- R606, USHE Employee Partner Scholarship
Clarifies eligibility criteria and application procedures to improve the student experience and administration.
- R608 Opportunity Scholarship
Aligns policy with the statute by stipulating that a student must graduate from a *Utah* high school and removing an allowance for competency-based assessments as a course requirement.
- R611, Veterans Tuition Gap Program
[H.B. 197](#) of the 2023 Legislative General Session allowed eligible students to use scholarship funds towards education-related supplies and housing. Additional technical changes include clarity for the administration of the scholarship and requirements for institutions to report the use of scholarship funds to the Commissioner's Office to align with regular data collection.
- R614, Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Grant Program
Aligns FAFSA requirement with other state aid programs, updates qualifications based on changes in the 2023 Legislative General Session, and stipulates the distribution of funds to institutions.
- R616, Adult Learner Grant Program
Clarifies the process for allocating funding to institutions and adds requirements for institutions to report the use of scholarship funds to the Commissioner's Office to align with regular data collection.
- R620, Utah Promise Program Grant
Incorporates changes from [H.B. 197](#) of the 2023 Legislative General Session that extends the duration a student may receive the award and allows the Commissioner's Office to receive and allocate private donations to the program.
- R621, Terrel H. Bell Education Scholarship Program
Aligns FAFSA requirement with other state aid programs and clarifies the distribution of funds to institutions.
- R624, Utah Promise Partners Program
Incorporates changes from [H.B. 197](#) of the 2023 Legislative General Session to allow the Board to name an award after a donating Promise Partner, extends the duration a student may receive the award, and clarifies employee qualifications.

Retired Policies (7)

- R603, Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program
The incentive loan program was converted to a grant program, and all outstanding loans were forgiven after Board action in May 2022. No outstanding loans remain for this program.
- R605, Higher Education Success Stipend Program
HESSP was merged with the Utah Promise Program in 2022. No new awards have been made for this program during the 2022-2023 school year.
- R612, Lender Participation
The program ended on June 30, 2022.
- R615, Talent Development Incentive Loan Program
The incentive loan program was converted to a grant program, and all outstanding loans were forgiven. No outstanding loans remain for this program.
- R618, UHEAA Grant
The final awards were issued in fiscal year 2022.
- R626, Lender-of-Last Resort Program
The UHEAA guarantor formal closure occurred on February 28, 2023.
- R650, Lender Certification of Obligations
The UHEAA guarantor formal closure occurred on February 28, 2023.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board of Higher Education approve the proposed creation, revision, or elimination of these 22 policies.