

**RULES
OF THE
TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION**

**CHAPTER 1640-01-29
TENNESSEE MIDDLE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1640-01-29-.01	Introduction	1640-01-29-.07	Certification
1640-01-29-.02	Definitions	1640-01-29-.08	Distribution of Funds
1640-01-29-.03	Scholarship Award Amount	1640-01-29-.09	Refunds
1640-01-29-.04	Application Process	1640-01-29-.10	Postsecondary Enrollment
1640-01-29-.05	Eligibility	1640-01-29-.11	Substitute Courses
1640-01-29-.06	Terminating Events		

1640-01-29-.01 INTRODUCTION.

- (1) These rules implement the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship Program authorized in T.C.A., Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9 as amended by 2017 Tennessee Public Acts, Chapter 405 (the Act). The Act provides scholarships to high school students who attend a middle college program beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year.

Authority: T.C.A §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.02 DEFINITIONS.

- (1) Full-time Student: The term is defined in T.C.A § 49-4-902.
- (2) Grade Point Average: The grade point average used to determine eligibility as determined by the high school.
- (3) Middle College: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.
- (4) Semester: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.
- (5) TSAC: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.

Authority: T.C.A §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.03 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNT.

- (1) The Middle College scholarship provides financial assistance to offset educational expenses for high school juniors and seniors who are pursuing an associate degree at an eligible middle college.
- (2) Award amount for the program shall be determined in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-4-909 and shall be set in the General Appropriations Act.
- (3) The receipt of the Middle College scholarship is contingent upon admission to and enrollment in an eligible Middle College program.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, 49-4-924, and 49-4-914. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.04 APPLICATION PROCESS.

- (1) Students participating in the Middle College Scholarship Program shall complete an annual application no later than September 1 for each academic year. If the deadline occurs on a weekend or holiday, then the application deadline will be the next business day.
- (2) The Middle College scholarship application shall serve as the only application. No additional application shall be required.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.05 ELIGIBILITY.

- (1) To be eligible for the Middle College Scholarship a student shall meet the requirements of T.C.A. § 49-4-909(a).
- (2) To continue to be eligible for the Middle College Scholarship, a student shall meet the requirements of T.C.A § 49-4-909(b).

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.06 TERMINATING EVENTS.

- (1) A student may receive the Middle College Scholarship until reaching a terminating event as described in T.C.A. § 49-4-909(c).

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.07 CERTIFICATION.

- (1) Each eligible Middle College shall be responsible for certifying to TSAC that the student has met all eligibility requirements.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.08 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.

- (1) Scholarship funds shall be disbursed to each eligible Middle College on behalf of students eligible for and enrolled in the program.
- (2) In no case shall funds be disbursed directly to students.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.09 REFUNDS.

- (1) If a recipient of a Middle College scholarship fails to complete a semester for any reason, the eligible Middle College shall apply its refund policy to determine whether a refund may be required and funds returned to TSAC. The eligible Middle College shall provide the student with a notice indicating the amount to be returned to the student or the amount to be refunded to TSAC. Additionally, the eligible Middle College shall also be responsible for

(Rule 1640-01-29-.09, continued)

obtaining repayment from the student. The student shall be ineligible for student aid from TSAC until the refund is paid.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.10 POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT.

- (1) Middle College graduates shall have sixteen (16) months to enroll in a four-year eligible postsecondary institution after completion of high school. Failure to enroll in a four-year eligible postsecondary institution within sixteen (16) months shall render a student permanently ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship.
- (2) Enrollment at a non-regionally accredited institution between graduation from Middle College and enrollment at a four-year eligible postsecondary institution shall make a student permanently ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship.
- (3) To be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship upon transfer to an eligible four-year postsecondary institution, a Middle College graduate shall have met all academic and non-academic requirements of the HOPE Scholarship while previously enrolled in any regionally accredited postsecondary institution.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

1640-01-29-.11 SUBSTITUTE COURSES.

- (1) An eligible middle college program may accept early postsecondary opportunity courses taken by middle college students in high school for purposes of determining full-time enrollment and associate degree graduation requirements, so long as postsecondary credit for such courses is not based on results from an end-of-course summative assessment.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.