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Sequence
 Number: 02-13-17
 Notice ID(s): 2678
 File Date: 2/15/17

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing

Hearings will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. § 4-5-204. For questions and copies of the notice, contact the person listed below.

Agency/Board/Commission:	Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
Division:	Higher Education
Contact Person:	Peter Abernathy
Address:	Suite 1510, Parkway Towers, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243
Phone:	615.532.6065
Email:	Peter.Abernathy@tn.gov

Any Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (to review these filings) and may require aid to facilitate such participation should contact the following at least 10 days prior to the hearing:

ADA Contact:	Peter Abernathy
Address:	Suite 1510, Parkway Towers, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243
Phone:	615.532.6065
Email:	Peter.Abernathy@tn.gov

Hearing Location(s) (for additional locations, copy and paste table)

Address 1:	Suite 1803, Parkway Towers		
Address 2:	404 James Robertson Parkway		
City:	Nashville		
Zip:	37243		
Hearing Date :	04/10/2017		
Hearing Time:	11:00 A.M.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST/CDT	<input type="checkbox"/> EST/EDT

Additional Hearing Information:

The TN Promise Scholarship Program provides an opportunity for all graduating high school seniors, regardless of socioeconomic status or academic performance, to obtain a certificate, diploma, or associate degree, free of tuition and fees. This last-dollar scholarship bridges the funding gap for a student after all other financial aid is applied; provides individual guidance to each participant through a statewide network of volunteer mentors; and engages the student by requiring the student to perform a minimum of eight hours of community service for each semester the scholarship is received.

The proposed rules will allow students who transfer to another postsecondary institution without sufficient

time to complete their certificate or degree program to remain eligible for the Promise scholarship. After consulting with postsecondary financial aid offices across the state, TSAC has determined that this provision will greatly benefit students who might otherwise drop from enrollment, by allowing them to continue to receive the scholarship through the original terminating events. These rules also move the summer community service deadline from May 1 to April 1, which will better align with the beginning of TCAT summer terms, and remove the mandatory requirement from the first student-partnering organization meeting. Additional revisions include eliminating the August 1 verification deadline, clarifying that the fall community service deadline of July 1 applies to all students, adjusting the FAFSA due date to be determined by TSAC on an annual basis, and eliminating the renewal application.

Emergency Rules have been filed, effective February 13, 2017, through August 12, 2017, since these revisions are necessary to accommodate circumstances that may arise as early as the fall semester of the 2016 academic year.

The proposed rules may be reviewed at <http://tnsos.org/rules/EmergencyRules.php>.

Oral or written comments are invited at the hearing. Additionally, written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing to: Peter Abernathy, Senior Associate Executive Director and Counsel, Suite 1510, Parkway Towers, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243, telephone 615.532.6065, or by email at Peter.Abernathy@tn.gov. However, any written comments submitted prior to the hearing must be received by 4:30 PM CST, April 7, 2017, to ensure consideration.

Revision Type (check all that apply):

- Amendment
- New
- Repeal

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
1640-01-26	Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program
Rule Number	Rule Title
1640-01-26-.03	Application Process
1640-01-26-.04	Eligibility – Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program
1640-01-26-.07	Community Service Program Requirements
1640-01-26-.09	Partnering Organization Requirements
1640-01-26-.17	Transfer Students

Chapter 1640-01-26
Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program

Amendments

Rule 1640-01-26-.03 Application Process is amended by deleting the rule in its entirety and substituting the following language so that as amended the rule shall read:

- (1) Students participating in the Tennessee Promise Scholarship program shall file a FAFSA, or renewal FAFSA, in each year of program participation. The FAFSA must be submitted by mail or electronically as directed in the FAFSA instructions.
- (2) Students enrolled in a community college, public four-year postsecondary institution, or private institution shall file the FAFSA or renewal FAFSA according to a date determined by TSAC for fall enrollment, or no later than November 1 for spring and summer enrollment.

- (3) Students enrolled in a TCAT shall file the FAFSA or renewal FAFSA according to a date determined by TSAC for summer and fall enrollment, or no later than November 1 for spring enrollment.
- (4) Students are required to complete the Tennessee Promise Scholarship award application for the initial year of enrollment no later than November 1 of their senior year of high school. If the deadline occurs on a weekend or holiday, then the application deadline will be the next business day.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-708.

Subparagraph (1)(l) of Rule 1640-01-26-.04 Eligibility – Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program is revised by deleting the word “mandatory” so that as amended the subparagraph shall read:

- (l) Prior to initial fall enrollment in a postsecondary institution, attend one meeting related to financial aid and FAFSA completion, and the college application process; and a second mandatory meeting related to college orientation. Participants may, but are not required to, attend additional meetings as offered by a Partnering Organization;

Subparagraph (1)(n) of Rule 1640-01-26-.04 Eligibility – Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program is revised by deleting the subparagraph in its entirety and substituting the following language so that as amended the subparagraph shall read:

- (n) Submit all necessary documentation to allow the postsecondary institution to complete FAFSA verification. FAFSA verification shall be completed regardless of eligibility for federal or state grants; and

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-708.

Subparagraph (1)(a) of Rule 1640-01-26-.07 Community Service Program Requirements is revised by replacing the text “entering freshmen” with “all students” so that as amended the subparagraph shall read:

- (a) August 1 for students attending the fall academic term; except that beginning in the 2017-18 academic year and thereafter, all students shall perform and report community service hours by July 1 for the fall academic term.

Subparagraph (1)(c) of Rule 1640-01-26-.07 Community Service Program Requirements is revised by replacing the text “May 1” with “April 1” so that as amended the subparagraph shall read:

- (c) April 1 for students attending the summer academic term.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-708.

Subparagraph 1(g) of Rule 1640-01-26-.09 Partnering Organization Requirements is revised by deleting the text “mandatory” so that as amended the subparagraph shall read:

- (g) Provide one (1) meeting for all Tennessee Promise Scholarship program participants prior to March 1 preceding the initial enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution. This meeting may be offered on multiple dates prior to the March 1 deadline, and shall provide training on the following topics:

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 39-13-527, 39-13-532, 39-17-417, 40-35-501, 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-708.

Rule 1640-01-26-.17 Transfer Students is amended by deleting the rule in its entirety and substituting the following language so that as amended the rule shall read:

- (1) A student who meets all academic and non-academic requirements of the Tennessee Promise Scholarship may transfer from one eligible postsecondary institution to another eligible postsecondary institution and maintain the scholarship until reaching a terminating event as outlined in T.C.A. § 49-4-708.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-204, and 49-4-708.

I certify that the information included in this filing is an accurate and complete representation of the intent and scope of rulemaking proposed by the agency.

Date: February 13, 2017

Signature: *Mike Krause*

Name of Officer: Mike Krause

Title of Officer: Executive Director



Subscribed and sworn to before me on: 02-13-17

Notary Public Signature: *Corsina Dickson-Wiley*

My commission expires on: 08-04-2020

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Filed with the Department of State on: 2/15/17

Tre Hargett

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

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