



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HESC Update February 2021

Processing 2020-21 Updates

- 1. NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence (SAE)**- HESC has received the new 2020-21 SAE recipients list from the State Education Department. These students are now included in the Student Status listing (SSL). Schools have been receiving SAE repeat recipients during the fall term.
- 2. Aid to Part Time Study (APTS) for academic year 2020-21**

The 2020-21 Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) program will be available soon. As you are aware, there have been delays in starting up the program this year and we appreciate your patience. The following outlines the schedule for the 2020-21 APTS program:

- APTS Participation Agreement and Student Payment Applications are now available. The Participation Agreements can be accessed under "Forms and Bulletins" in Secure Transaction Processing.
- Signed participation agreement must be emailed to APTS.Administration@hesc.ny.gov. All Participation Agreements must be received no later than **March 3, 2021** to be considered for APTS funds.
- As with TAP, the income requirements for the APTS for 2020-2021 will be based on the prior-prior year (PPY) income; awards will be based on income for the 2018 tax year.
- HESC will determine the APTS allocation for each participating school in March and schools will be notified when the allocation is available.
- Once the allocations have been determined, schools will be able to submit their Summer, Fall or Spring Recipient lists. We have temporarily removed the 45-day deadline for submitting the recipient lists and certifications.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Please contact APTS.Administration@hesc.ny.gov if you have any questions.

- 3. Processing for students applying through the Dream Act portal**- Information regarding students who applied for NYS Financial Aid for 2020 through the DREAM Act portal are now displayed on the HESC system. Beginning on the

February 2021 roster, all students eligible to be certified will be included for certification.

2019 student awardees will continue to be sent on the Consolidated Roster for processing.

4. **Student Status Listing layout changes-** Effective January 29, 2021, adjustments were made to the record layout for the SSL. Fields changing on the new layout include Source Doc and App Stat fields. A revised record layout can be found on the HESC website.

Modification includes:

- The values for Source Doc have changed so that instead of the actual application source, new values of 1 - Application Available and 2 - Application Submitted will be sent.
- Values for academic years no longer being sent have been removed.
- New value for App Stat field new value of 'Z' = TAP approved; Roster pending Scholarship approval.

Processing 2021-22 Updates

- Beginning February 9, 2021, the Student Status Listing for the 2021-22 academic year will be available to schools every other week.

2021-22 Proposed New York State Budget Recommendations

In his 2021-22 Executive Budget, released on January 19, 2021, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo protects access to an affordable college degree by preserving student financial aid and opportunity programs that serve New York State's neediest students in the face of economic challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Full support for over \$1 billion for HESC financial aid programs**

The 2022 FY Executive Budget maintains full support for over \$1 billion in HESC financial aid programs, including TAP, the Excelsior Scholarship and Enhanced Tuition Awards programs.

Further, the Executive Budget assumes payment of the spring 2020 and fall 2020 withholdings and exempts financial aid and opportunity programs from the 5 percent spending reduction for the 2021-22 State fiscal year.

As a result, HESC will:

1. Pay all remaining awards for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years at 100 percent of the award value.
 2. Release the 20 percent of payments that were temporarily withheld by March 31, 2021, in accordance with State guidance.
- **Ensures students impacted by the coronavirus pandemic maintain their financial aid eligibility**

The 2022 FY Executive Budget includes legislation to hold harmless students who, beginning in Spring 2020, were unable to complete academic requirements needed to maintain financial aid eligibility because their enrollment was disrupted by the pandemic, were unable to maintain satisfactory academic progress due to illness, course closure, or other special circumstances.

Upon enactment of the Budget, HESC will:

1. Process spring 2020 awards containing the COVID flag.
2. Process fall 2020 awards containing the COVID flag.

Please be aware that schools may continue to utilize the COVID flag for students who meet the established criteria during any term in which the Governor's Executive Order (EO 202, established March 7, 2020), declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State, remains in effect.

- **Change for the Excelsior Scholarship program**

The Executive Budget recommends the continuation of the Excelsior Scholarship tuition freeze at the 2016-17 rate for an additional 2 years, after which the tuition rate will be adjusted each year.

Student ID Processing

- Continue processing H9751 files
- Colleges with multiple school codes must make sure the student ID is sent for the correct code or send the ID for both school codes so in the event they adjust the school code the student ID is already on file.
- Students with no ID will not be sent on any files to schools for processing
 - Includes Student Status Listing (SSL), Rosters, Ras, and Manifests

2020-21 Certification Processing

HESC is now paying January's certified awards for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years at 100 percent of the value. The winter/spring roster pre-payments will also be made at 100 percent of their value. The spring roster will be subject to the annual TAP deferral.

HESC Accounting Documents for January will be available in the Reports section of HESCWeb Transaction Processing by clicking on the Details link next to Form Ids PAYDOCS or PAYDOCSI.

Please direct any questions to payments@hesc.ny.gov.

Citizenship Updates

- Citizenship documentation is being updated daily at HESC and is current at this time.
- Documentation needed for first time NYS Financial Aid recipients only
 - HESC requests proof of citizenship documentation
 - Uploaded using students HESC account
 - Once documentation is received
 - Citizenship updated at HESC
 - Award will be reinstated
 - Student on SSL sent to school
- Students who are previous recipients of NYS Financial Aid and who have a citizenship “c” code do not need to provide documentation
 - Schools would have collected documentation in prior years
 - Students will be set to citizenship approved**
 - NYS award will be reinstated
 - Sent on SSL to school

** Currently run once a week until programming is in place

2019-20 Processing

- All certifications should be processed at this time
- Certify all Excelsior and ETA students on manifest now
- Check error reports for TAP, Excelsior, and ETA
- All pending and students in error status must be successfully processed by May 15th.
 - Update and recertify errors
 - Errors must be corrected and processed before close out of the year or students will not get paid.

NYS Dream Act

- Students complete NYS DREAM Act application
- Eligibility for residency/citizenship and education is determined
- Once complete, applicants continue to apply for specific NYS Financial Aid programs
- Application periods are the same for all applicants
 - Applicants go through same verification processes

- Once verification is complete, TAP awards are calculated, and applicant notified
- Applicant information is provided to school on weekly status listing
- Applicants will be placed on your payment rosters for certification
- HESC sent out 2019 certifications on a consolidated roster (CSR)
 - Temporary fix until students are fully loaded into the HESC mainframe system
- Renewal process-
 - Student needs to complete new program application in subsequent years
 - For now, any change in information (school code changes as an example) needs to be completed by HESC. Students will be able to make changes within their accounts in the next weeks.
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- 2020 Processing
 - Information regarding students who applied for NYS Financial Aid for 2020 through the DREAM Act portal are now displayed on the HESC system. Beginning on the February 2021 roster, all students eligible to be certified are included for certification.

COVID Flag

- Schools who indicated the COVID flag in error should send a request to have the flag removed to priorityservices@hesc.ny.gov