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## Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

### STATE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (SGS) GUIDANCE MEMO

REFERENCE:	<b>SGS 09-005</b>
TOPIC:	<b>STUDENT CHOICE GRANT</b>
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Last September, an administrative budget cut in the amount of 4.75% was mandated in order to keep the state budget in balance for the current fiscal year (FY 2009). Even though the appropriations for the Student Choice Grant were affected by this cut, it did not result in a decrease in student awards as the remaining appropriations still exceeded the projected expenditures.

On Friday, December 19, 2008, another round of administrative budget cuts in the amount of 5.75% was mandated. This latest cut has now decreased the appropriations for the Choice Grant program to the point that a cut in student awards is necessary in order to keep the program funds in balance.

Therefore, in order to operate within the financial means of the program for the 2008-2009 academic year, there will be a \$20 cut to Choice Grant awards for spring term only. Summer, fall and winter term amounts are held harmless and need not be adjusted.

Upon requesting payment for spring term via HEI, schools should adjust the normal spring amount requested to reflect the \$20 cut per student. Quarter schools should request \$200 (instead of \$220) and semester schools should request \$310 (instead of \$330).

Certainly, financial aid award revisions for affected students would be expected. As you are aware, Choice Grant recipients do not file an official application to receive funding from this program through the Ohio Board of Regents. We do not possess contact information for any recipients. Therefore, outside of posting an update on our website, we will not be able to directly inform grant recipients.

It should be highlighted that no one is being penalized in such a scenario; rather we recognize many individuals are sharing in this sacrifice brought on by the trying economic condition. A copy of this memo along with a copy of a sample letter to all recipients can be found at the following website: [http://regents.ohio.gov/sgs/choice\\_grant/](http://regents.ohio.gov/sgs/choice_grant/). This sample letter to students is not required to be sent to all recipients, rather it is provided as a tool to use as each institution deems necessary to help in the communications process to affected students.

Your cooperation, understanding and patience are very much appreciated.