



Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

STATE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (SGS) GUIDANCE MEMO

REFERENCE:	SGS 10-006B
TOPIC:	ADDENDUM TO SGS 10-006A (24 JULY 2009)
AUTHOR:	CHAD FOUST, SGS DIRECTOR
DATE:	31 AUGUST 2009
RELEVANT STATUTE:	OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 3333.122

OCOG Rosters

The **final** version of the new and improved OCOG rosters are still several months away. Since the final version will reflect actual OCOG award amounts and remaining units of eligibility, they cannot be completed until all of the re-programming has been performed to reflect the 2009-2010 award amounts and the final conversion of OIG units to OCOG units.

Realizing this further delay would cripple the ability of financial aid offices to award, confirm and credit OCOG amounts to students, our HEI team will soon be able to begin loading 2009-2010 ISIR data **into the existing format** of the OCOG rosters from 2008-2009. Although these rosters will not include every bit of information the final version will, they will provide schools with the most important indicator of whether a student is or is not eligible for OCOG. Obviously, the schools have the award tables that have been provided under previous guidance. **An updated award table is included at the end of this memo.**

The goal is for these 2009-2010 OCOG eligibility rosters to be available beginning September 28. However, please note that the ISIR records will begin to be loaded September 27 and will be loaded in small batches on a daily basis. This means the rosters will constantly be updated and be subject to change. ISIR records are loaded in chronological order so students who filed FAFSA's in early January will appear sooner than those who filed in May. You will need to pay close attention to the ISIR transaction number in the case of students who have submitted multiple updates. Certainly, if our HEI team is able to make these rosters available any earlier, we will notify the financial aid community accordingly.

Prior Ohio Instructional Grant (OIG) Recipients

Prior guidance suggested that financial aid personnel could refer to the **2008-2009 OIG rosters** for the most current data regarding remaining units of state, need-based aid eligibility for students attending in 2009-2010. This works fine for students who attend the same institution in both academic years. However, this does not work well for students who transfer into a specific institution beginning in 2009-2010. For those students, our office can help you determine if they have remaining OIG units (and therefore remaining OCOG units) of eligibility. You can simply enter the students' names and social security numbers into an Excel Spreadsheet and send it through the HEI secure server to Tamika Braswell. Tamika will add a column indicating the number of remaining units of state, need-based aid for each student (as of the beginning of summer term, 2009-2010) and send it back. You can access the secure server to send the spreadsheets here: https://qry.regents.state.oh.us/cgi/hei_secure_file_transfer.cgi. ***Since the spreadsheet will contain social security numbers, they should not be sent via regular e-mail as an attachment.***

Delay in Payment Requests

Although we are able to use the 2008-2009 OCOG eligibility roster structure in the meantime to begin providing schools with 2009-2010 OCOG eligibility results, we cannot do the same for payment request files. Unfortunately, the payment request files for 2009-2010 cannot be made available until the full HEI project is complete with the re-coding and re-programming of the new OCOG awards. Depending on multiple factors, the full project may not be complete until December. However, the goal of the HEI team is to expedite this deadline to the extent possible, and we will provide updates on the progress over the course of the next several weeks and months.

'Rule 2'

For public institutions only, there have been concerns raised that the delay in OCOG payments could jeopardize the subsidy funding for OCOG eligible students. After consultation with our Finance Office, we have identified current guidance on subsidy eligible definitions that offers relief for such situations. Specifically, one of the exceptions for a student with an outstanding balance on his account to still be considered subsidy eligible is, "The student's financial aid and/or third party payment for the present term is in progress (examples of third parties could include state or federal government grants, student's employer, or union)." Certainly, this exception would only pertain to these instances when the outstanding balance equals the expected OCOG award amount for any given term(s). The full guidance can be found at the following link: <http://regents.ohio.gov/hei/datasubdoc/enrollment/production/snfile.html#studsub>.

Foster Youth

The final version of the budget includes a clause specific to qualified foster youth at community colleges. The provision requires that for otherwise OCOG eligible students, their living expenses are to be added to their tuition/general fees to determine their OCOG award amount. Attached with this memo is a sample letter from the Ohio Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program that these qualified foster youth will receive. A copy of this letter must be sent to our office in order to override the \$0 OCOG eligibility that will normally populate all community college students. Assuming the living expenses plus tuition/general fees exceed \$6,358 (\$5,350 plus \$1,008) for the academic year, these community college foster youth could be eligible for the 2009-2010 maximum public OCOG amount of \$1,008. The living expenses to consider are the full amount contained in each student's institutional cost of attendance. Note that since living expenses are included in these students' state cost of attendance, **in these cases only**, OCOG is not tuition specific.

OCOG File Format

Prior guidance advised loading the updated OCOG HEI submission file and noted the addition of a Verification Switch for 2009-2010. After additional consultation with and feedback from many Quality Assurance campuses, the determination has been made that the addition of this Verification Switch will cause more problems than it may solve. Therefore, we are going to ask all schools to go back to the original format (from 2008-2009). This file format only affects the submission of payment requests and **does not affect the ability to view eligibility rosters**. Therefore, there is still plenty of time to update this file format while the HEI project is being completed. The file format can be found at the following link: <http://regents.ohio.gov/hei/datasubdoc/finaid/ogfile.html>.

As a reminder, if the following applies, it is the institution's responsibility to contact our office to determine if an alternate OCOG chart is warranted. At any time in the future (including but not limited to future audits), if it is determined that any private, non-profit institution awarded OCOG at the maximum amount(s) but did not have the minimum standard tuition/general fees structure as detailed below, that institution will be required to refund the difference.

Tuition—Private, Non-Profit

An assumption was made that all private, non-profit institutions would have a tuition/general fees structure that would qualify for the maximum private, non-profit OCOG award of \$2,256. For this to be accurate, all schools would have to have a standard tuition/general fees rate (based on 12 credit hours of study over 2 semesters or 3 quarters) equal to or greater than the maximum Federal Pell Grant/EFC combination and maximum OCOG award.

It has been determined this assumption was wrong, and we have identified a few private, non-profit institutions with standard tuition/general fees rates lower than \$7,606 (\$5,350 plus \$2,256). In those cases, we have simply created a unique OCOG award chart for those schools for ease of administration. Since the Ohio Board of Regents does not collect tuition data from private, non-profit institutions as we do from our public institutions, ***I am asking any other private, non-profit schools to whom this applies to contact me directly to set up a similar alternate OCOG chart.*** Of course, this request does not apply to private, non-profit schools whose standard tuition/general fees exceed the \$7,606 threshold— for them, the maximum \$2,256 chart will continue to apply.

Updated Award Table

Ohio residents enrolled in a degree or nurse diploma program with an EFC of 2190 or less and a household income of no greater than \$75,000:

Enrolled:	Community Colleges	Regional Campuses	Central State	Shawnee State	All Other Main Campuses	Allegheny Wesleyan	God's Bible College	Trinity School of Nursing	Franklin University	Mercy College	All Other Private, Non-Profit	Private, For-Profit	PA*
Full-time	0	0	0	480	1008	0	240	864	1800	1848	2256	0	600 or 800
3/4 Time	0	0	0	360	756	0	180	648	1350	1386	1692	0	300 or 400
1/2 Time	0	0	0	240	504	0	120	432	900	924	1128	0	300 or 400
1/4 Time	0	0	0	120	252	0	60	216	450	462	564	0	0

These maximum award amounts should be considered a guide to potential OCOG eligibility and are subject to final determination made by institutional financial aid offices. Reasons for reduced OCOG eligibility include, but are not limited to, failure to meet institutional standards of academic progress and a lower tuition/fees structure under the statutory Pell-first concept of OCOG.

All amounts reflect annual awards. Appropriate award amounts should be divided by two for semesters or three for quarters.

Eligible students continuously enrolled may receive an additional 1/2 or 1/3 of their respective award amount in their third semester or fourth quarter.

Students are limited to 10 semesters or 15 quarters of state, need-based grant aid (including combination of OCOG and OIG).

*Amounts for Ohio residents attending eligible Pennsylvania institutions--\$800/\$400 figures apply to veterans and \$600/\$300 figures to non-veterans.

Financial aid personnel should direct questions to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Administrator, Tamika Braswell, 614.728.8862, tbraswell@regents.state.oh.us