

15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective through July 31, 2024)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide notification to the student within ten business days.
3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.
4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled.
5. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters, quarters, or clock-hour terms.
- b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or professional program.
6. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4, section 15.1-21-02.5, or section 15.1-21-02.10 and who:

Page No. 7

- a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
 - b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
 - c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a custodial parent in this state; or
 - d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter 15.1-23.
7. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is attending.
 - b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.
 - c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
 - (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
 - (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
 - (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
 - (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
 - (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
 - (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.
8. For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
 - a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
 - b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective after July 31, 2024)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure the student meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide notification to the student within ten business days.
3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.
4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled.
5. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters, quarters, or clock-hour terms.
- b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or professional program.

Page No. 8

6. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.10 and who:
 - a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
 - b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
 - c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a custodial parent in this state; or
 - d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter 15.1-23.
7. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is attending.
- b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.
- c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
 - (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
 - (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
 - (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
 - (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
 - (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
 - (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.
8. For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
 - a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
 - b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

15.1-21-18. Career interest inventory - Educational and career planning - Consultation.

1. A school district shall administer to students, once during their enrollment in grade seven or eight and once during their enrollment in grade nine or ten, a career interest inventory recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction.
2. At least once during the seventh or eighth grade, each school district shall arrange for students to participate in either an individual consultative process or a nine-week course, for the purpose of discussing the results of their career interest inventory, selecting high school courses appropriate to their educational pursuits and career interests, and developing individual high school education plans.
3. Each school district shall notify its high school students that, upon request, a student is entitled to receive a consultative review of the student's individual high school education plan at least once during each high school grade. Upon the request of a student, the school district shall provide the consultative review.
4. Each school district shall verify compliance with the requirements of this section at the time and in the manner required by the superintendent of public instruction.

15.1-21-27. High school graduation requirement - Civics test.

1. For purposes of this section, "civics test" means the one hundred questions that, as of January 1, 2015, officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services use as the basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States government, as required by 8 U.S.C. 1423.
2.
 - a. If a student is enrolled in the twelfth grade during the 2016-17 school year, that student must, as a condition of receiving a high school diploma, correctly answer at least sixty percent of the questions on the civics test.
 - b. Before any other student may be awarded a high school diploma, that student must correctly answer at least seventy percent of the questions on the civics test.
3.
 - a. The requirement set forth in this section applies to each student who is:
 - (1) Enrolled in a public school district;
 - (2) Enrolled in a nonpublic school;
 - (3) Enrolled in the center for distance education;
 - (4) Receiving home education if the student is to be issued a high school diploma in accordance with subsection 1 of section 15.1-23-17; or
 - (5) Pursuing a general equivalency diploma.
 - b. A student may be exempted from the requirement of this section by the provisions of the student's individualized education program plan.
4. The superintendent of public instruction shall, upon request, provide to the person administering the civics test the correct answer or acceptable answers to each question.
5. A student may take the test, in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade seven and may repeat the test, or any portion thereof, as often as necessary to demonstrate proficiency.
6. Neither the superintendent of public instruction nor a school district may impose or collect any fees or charges in connection with this section.
7. This section is applicable to any student who graduates from high school during or after the 2016-17 school year.

15.1-06-08.2. Innovative education program - Participation - Reports to legislative management.

1. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to administer this section and develop criteria for the submission, approval, and evaluation of the proposals and plans under this section.
2. The superintendent of public instruction may accept a proposal from any public or nonpublic school, upon approval by the school board or governing board, for participation in an innovative education program. The proposal must include evaluation criteria and specify the innovations to be pursued at the school or school district level and the manner in which the proposal will:
 - a. Improve the delivery of education;
 - b. Improve the administration of education;
 - c. Provide increased educational opportunities for students; or
 - d. Improve the academic success of students.
3. The superintendent of public instruction may approve the proposal, reject the proposal, or work with the submitting school to modify the proposal.
4. During the school's initial year of participation in the innovative education program, the school shall develop a comprehensive implementation plan and work with the superintendent of public instruction to ensure the long-term viability of the proposal.
5. The superintendent of public instruction may approve the comprehensive implementation plan developed under subsection 4 for a period of up to five years. If, due to a change in circumstances, there is a determination by either the school or the superintendent of public instruction that modifications to the comprehensive implementation plan are necessary, the school and the superintendent of public instruction shall work with each other to achieve the necessary modifications.
6. The superintendent of public instruction may revoke any waiver granted under section 15.1-06-08.1 if the superintendent of public instruction determines the school has failed to perform in accordance with the agreed upon terms of the program or failed to meet the requirements of this section.
7. Any school participating in the program shall provide program evaluation data to the superintendent of public instruction at the time and in the manner requested by the superintendent of public instruction.
8. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide annual reports to the legislative management regarding the innovative education program, including:
 - a. The status of the implementation plan;
 - b. A summary of any waived statutes or rules; and
 - c. A review of evaluation data results.

15.1-06-08.1. Statutes - Waiver.

1. The superintendent of public instruction may not waive any statute, in whole or in part, except as provided for in this section.
2. A school or school district may apply to the superintendent of public instruction for a waiver of chapters 15-20.1, 15.1-06, 15.1-18, 15.1-20, 15.1-21, 15.1-22, 15.1-25, 15.1-32, and 15.1-38, or any associated rules, if the waiver:
 - a. Improves the delivery of education;
 - b. Improves the administration of education;
 - c. Provides increased educational opportunities for students; or
 - d. Improves the academic success of students.
3. The initial waiver must be for a specific period of time but may not exceed one year. The school district may apply for extensions of the waiver. The first extension may not exceed a period of one year. Additional extensions may not exceed periods of two years.

4. If the superintendent of public instruction, after receipt and consideration of an application for a waiver under this section, approves the waiver, the superintendent shall file a report with the legislative management. The report must provide a detailed account of the reasons for which the waiver was granted and the specific time period for the waiver. If the superintendent of public instruction denies an application for a waiver under this section, the superintendent shall file a notice of denial with the legislative management. If requested, the superintendent shall appear and respond to questions regarding the approval or denial of any application for a waiver under this section.
5. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules governing the submission and evaluation of applications and the monitoring of any school or school district that receives a waiver under this section.

15.1-20-02.1. Attendance - Determination - Policies.

1. To be deemed in attendance for purposes of this chapter, a student may not be absent from school without excuse for more than:
 - a. Three consecutive school days during either the first half or the second half of a school or school district's calendar;
 - b. Six half days during either the first half or the second half of a school or school district's calendar; or
 - c. Twenty-one class periods.
2. The board of each school district and governing body of each nonpublic school shall adopt a policy that:
 - a. Defines an excused absence as any absence from school, if that absence is supported by either a verbal or written excuse supplied by the student's parent, teacher, or school administrator; and
 - b. Articulates the type of documentation that may be requested to verify a student's absence.
3. This chapter does not preclude a school district or nonpublic school from withholding credit, removing a student from a course, or taking other punitive measures against a student who does not arrive in a timely fashion or who exceeds a specific number of absences, as determined by the school district or nonpublic school.