

**REGENTS' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lyle W. Hillyard**

House Sponsor: Mark W. Walker

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill establishes the Regents' Scholarship Program to award merit scholarships to students who complete a rigorous core course of study in high school.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ establishes the Regents' Scholarship Program, including:
  - a base scholarship and supplemental scholarship awards; and
  - scholarship qualifications, amounts, and procedures;
- ▶ establishes a Regents' Diploma Endorsement;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Regents to make certain policies; and
- ▶ makes certain appropriations nonlapsing.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ for fiscal year 2008-09 only, \$50,000,000 from the Education Fund to the State Board of Regents; and
- ▶ as an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, \$7,500,000 from the Education Fund for fiscal year 2008-09 to the State Board of Regents.

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2008.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**



28 ENACTS:

29 **53B-8-108**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

30 **53B-8-109**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

31 **53B-8-110**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

32 **53B-8-111**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 **53B-8-112**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



35 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

36 Section 1. Section **53B-8-108** is enacted to read:

37 **53B-8-108. Regents' Scholarship Program -- General provisions -- Board policies.**

38 (1) The Regents' Scholarship Program is created to award merit scholarships to  
39 students who complete a rigorous core course of study in high school.

40 (2) A student who is awarded the Base Regents' Scholarship established in Section  
41 53B-8-109 may also be awarded each of the supplemental awards established in Sections  
42 53B-8-110, 53B-8-111, and 53B-8-112.

43 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a Regents' Scholarship may only be  
44 used at a higher education institution within the state system of higher education, including the  
45 Utah College of Applied Technology.

46 (b) A Regents' Scholarship may be used at a Western Undergraduate Exchange  
47 program that is approved by the board.

48 (4) (a) The board shall annually report on the Regents' Scholarship Program at the  
49 beginning of each school year to the Education Interim Committee and the Higher Education  
50 Appropriations Subcommittee.

51 (b) The report shall include the number of students in each school district and public  
52 high school who meet the academic criteria for the Base Regents' Scholarship and for the  
53 Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship.

54 (c) The State Board of Education, school districts, and public high schools shall  
55 cooperate with the State Board of Regents to facilitate the collection and distribution of  
56 Regents' Scholarship Program data.

57 (5) The State Board of Education shall annually provide the State Board of Regents a  
58 complete list of directory information, including student name and address, for all grade 8

59 students in the state.

60 (6) The board shall, by July 15, 2008, adopt policies establishing:

61 (a) the high school and college course requirements, including group credit  
62 requirements, described in Subsection 53B-8-109(1)(e):

63 (b) the cumulative grade point average required in Sections 53B-8-109 and 53B-8-112;

64 (c) the additional weights assigned to grades earned in certain courses for purposes of  
65 calculating a student's cumulative high school grade point average;

66 (d) the regional accrediting bodies that may accredit a private high school described in  
67 Subsection 53B-8-109(1)(a)(ii);

68 (e) the application process for a Regents' Scholarship, including procedures to allow a  
69 parent or student to apply for the scholarship on-line; and

70 (f) Western Undergraduate Exchange programs that are approved for the use of a  
71 Regents' Scholarship.

72 (7) (a) The Legislature shall make an annual appropriation from the Education Fund to  
73 the State Board of Regents for the costs associated with the Regents' Scholarship Program  
74 authorized under this section and Sections 53B-8-109, 53B-8-110, 53B-8-111, and 53B-8-112.

75 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the appropriation shall be offset in part by the  
76 state moneys that would otherwise be required and appropriated for these students if they were  
77 enrolled in a program at a state-operated institution.

78 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and Sections 53B-8-109, 53B-8-110,  
79 53B-8-111, and 53B-8-112, if the appropriation under Subsection (7)(a) is insufficient to cover  
80 the costs associated with the Regents' Scholarship Program, the State Board of Regents may  
81 limit or reduce the Base Regents' Scholarships and supplemental awards.

82 Section 2. Section **53B-8-109** is enacted to read:

83 **53B-8-109. Regents' Scholarship Program -- Base Regents' Scholarship --**

84 **Qualifications -- Application.**

85 (1) A Base Regents' Scholarship shall be awarded to a student who, by September 1 of  
86 the year the student's class graduates from high school:

87 (a) completes the high school graduation requirements of:

88 (i) a public school established by the State Board of Education and the student's school  
89 district or charter school; or

90 (ii) a private high school in the state that is accredited by a regional accrediting body  
91 approved by the board;

92 (b) passes the basic skills competency test established in Section 53A-1-611;

93 (c) completes high school with a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average  
94 determined by the board's policies;

95 (d) has at least one reported ACT test score; and

96 (e) completes:

97 (i) at least 22 units of core high school credit in grades 9-12, with no individual core  
98 course grade below a "C", including credit subtotals required by the board from each of the  
99 following groups:

100 (A) English;

101 (B) algebra or higher mathematics;

102 (C) social studies;

103 (D) lab-based natural science;

104 (E) sequential world or classical language other than English;

105 (F) arts;

106 (G) physical and health education;

107 (H) career and technical education;

108 (I) computer technology; and

109 (J) general financial literacy; or

110 (ii) the International Baccalaureate requirements, with no individual course grade  
111 below a "C".

112 (2) To be eligible for the scholarship, a student:

113 (a) shall submit an application to the board with a copy of the student's official high  
114 school transcript;

115 (b) shall be a citizen of the United States or a noncitizen who is eligible to receive  
116 federal student aid;

117 (c) may not have a criminal record, with the exception of misdemeanor traffic citations;

118 and

119 (d) shall enroll full time at a higher education institution within the state system of  
120 higher education within 12 months of the student's high school graduation.

121 (3) For purposes of calculating a student's cumulative high school grade point average,  
122 the board shall, by policy, assign additional weights to grades earned in English, mathematics,  
123 laboratory science, social science, and foreign language courses identified as:

124 (a) advanced placement;

125 (b) pre-International Baccalaureate;

126 (c) International Baccalaureate; or

127 (d) concurrent enrollment.

128 (4) (a) The amount of the Base Regents' Scholarship is \$1,000.

129 (b) The board shall annually increase the amount of the Base Regents' Scholarship by a  
130 percentage equal to the average percentage tuition increase approved by the board for USHE  
131 institutions.

132 Section 3. Section **53B-8-110** is enacted to read:

133 **53B-8-110. Regents' Scholarship Program -- Supplemental award to encourage**  
134 **college savings.**

135 (1) A student who qualifies for the Base Regents' Scholarship in accordance with the  
136 provisions of Section 53B-8-109 may be awarded up to an additional \$400 as provided in this  
137 section.

138 (2) A student who qualifies for the Base Regents' Scholarship shall be awarded up to  
139 \$100 for a year that:

140 (a) the student was 14, 15, 16, or 17 years of age; and

141 (b) at least \$100 in contributions, excluding transfers, investment earnings, and  
142 interest, was deposited in a Utah Educational Savings Plan Trust account that designated the  
143 student as the beneficiary.

144 (3) (a) The award shall be an amount equal to a dollar for dollar match up to \$100 for  
145 each of the years described in Subsection (2)(a).

146 (b) The maximum award is \$100 for a year, up to a cumulative total of \$400.

147 Section 4. Section **53B-8-111** is enacted to read:

148 **53B-8-111. Supplemental scholarship award -- First generation college student.**

149 (1) A student who qualifies for the Base Regents' Scholarship in accordance with the  
150 provisions of Section 53B-8-109 shall be awarded an additional \$1,000 if the student submits a  
151 notarized affidavit attesting that neither of the student's parents nor the student's legal guardian

152 completed an associate's or bachelor's degree in college.

153 (2) An award under this section may not be used to diminish or reduce any state  
154 need-based financial aid for which the student may qualify based on personal or family income.

155 Section 5. Section **53B-8-112** is enacted to read:

156 **53B-8-112. Supplemental scholarship award -- Exemplary academic achievement**  
157 **-- Regents' diploma.**

158 (1) A student who qualifies for the Base Regents' Scholarship in accordance with the  
159 provisions of Section 53B-8-109 shall be awarded an additional Exemplary Academic  
160 Achievement Scholarship if the student, by September 1 of the year the student's class  
161 graduates from high school:

162 (a) completes high school with a cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.5 or  
163 higher, as determined by the board's policies;

164 (b) completes the 22 unit core course of study described in Subsection 53B-8-109(1)(f)  
165 with no core course grade lower than a "B"; and

166 (c) scores a composite ACT score of 26 or higher, as determined by the board's  
167 policies, which may also include required college readiness benchmark scores in English,  
168 mathematics, reading, and science.

169 (2) The Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship shall provide the student the  
170 equivalent of 75% of the tuition costs at the selected institution for up to two years of full-time  
171 equivalent enrollment, or until the requirements of an associate's or bachelor's degree have  
172 been met, whichever is shorter.

173 (3) The board may grant a leave of absence to an Exemplary Academic Achievement  
174 Scholarship holder, but the scholarship shall be used in its entirety within five years after  
175 completion of high school.

176 (4) An Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship may be canceled at any time by  
177 the institution of attendance if the student fails to:

178 (a) register as a full-time student;

179 (b) maintain a "B" average for two consecutive semesters; or

180 (c) make reasonable progress towards the completion of either an associate's or  
181 bachelor's degree.

182 (5) (a) A student who qualifies for the Exemplary Academic Achievement Scholarship

183 under this section shall also receive a Regents' Diploma Endorsement to be issued by the board.

184 (b) If qualified for in time, a Regents' Diploma Endorsement shall be awarded to the  
185 student at high school commencement exercises.

186 Section 6. **One-time appropriation.**

187 (1) There is appropriated \$50,000,000 from the Education Fund for fiscal year 2008-09  
188 only, to the State Board of Regents to fund the Base Regents' Scholarships and supplemental  
189 awards established in Sections 53B-8-109, 53B-8-110, 53B-8-111, and 53B-8-112.

190 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the appropriation under Subsection (1) is  
191 nonlapsing.

192 Section 7. **Ongoing appropriation.**

193 (1) As an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, there is  
194 appropriated from the Education Fund for fiscal year 2008-09, \$7,500,000 to the State Board of  
195 Regents.

196 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that:

197 (a) \$500,000 of the appropriation under Subsection (1) shall be used to administer the  
198 Regents' Scholarship Program; and

199 (b) \$7,000,000 of the appropriation under Subsection (1) shall be used to fund the Base  
200 Regents' Scholarships and supplemental awards established in Sections 53B-8-109, 53B-8-110,  
201 53B-8-111, and 53B-8-112.

202 Section 8. **Effective date.**

203 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2008.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-29-08 11:59 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**S.B. 180 - Regents' Scholarship Program**

**Fiscal Note**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

This bill appropriates \$50 million in one-time funding and \$7.5 million in ongoing funding from the Education Fund to the State Board of Regents to establish the Regents' Scholarship Program.

	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Revenue</u>
Education Fund	\$0	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education Fund, One-Time	\$0	\$50,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$57,500,000</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Recipients who earn the Regents' Scholarship will receive a financial award to be used for their higher education.