Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness Scholarship Eligibility

35A-9-401 Eligibility determination -- Awarding of scholarship.

(1) As used in this section:
   (a) "Eligible child" means an individual who:
      (i) is experiencing intergenerational poverty;
      (ii) will be four years of age on or before September 2 of the school year in which the individual
           intends to enroll in a school readiness program; and
      (iii) has not enrolled in kindergarten, as reported by the individual's parent or legal guardian.
   (b) "Intergenerational poverty" means the same as that term is defined in Section 35A-9-102.
   (c) "Intergenerational poverty scholarship" or "IGP scholarship" means the same as that term is
       defined in Section 53F-5-301.

(2) The department shall determine if an applicant for an IGP scholarship is eligible for the
    Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness Scholarship Program, created in Section
    53F-5-305.

(3) An individual may apply to the department annually to qualify for a scholarship for an eligible
    child to attend a high quality school readiness program.

(4)
   (a) The department shall create an application form that requires an applicant to provide the
       information necessary for the department to make the eligibility determination described in
       Subsection (5).
   (b) The department may:
      (i) require an applicant to submit supporting documentation; and
      (ii) create a deadline for an applicant to apply for an IGP scholarship.

(5) The department shall determine if:
   (a) the information contained in an application submitted under Subsection (3) is accurate and
       complete; and
   (b) the child for whom the applicant is applying for an IGP scholarship is an eligible child.

(6)
   (a) Except as provided in Subsection (6)(b), and subject to legislative appropriations, the
       department shall:
      (i) award an IGP scholarship for an individual who is determined to be an eligible child under
          Subsection (5); and
      (ii) with input from the State Board of Education, determine the value of an IGP scholarship.
   (b) If the department receives an appropriation for IGP scholarships that is not sufficient to award
       a scholarship to each eligible child, the department shall prioritize awarding IGP scholarships
       to eligible children who are at the highest risk as determined by the department.

(7) The department shall coordinate with the State Board of Education, as necessary, to enroll a
    recipient of an IGP scholarship in a high quality school readiness program of the recipient's
    parent's choice, space permitting, as described in Section 53F-5-305.

(8) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the department
    shall make rules to administer this section.

Amended by Chapter 415, 2018 General Session