



ASSISTANCE ADVISOR

Spring 2014
Volume 2, Issue 2

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues:

On February 25, 2014, Governor Christie delivered his proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget to the New Jersey Legislature. Once again, the Governor has shown his strong support for New Jersey's premiere need-based student aid program, the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG). TAG funding is proposed at approximately \$355 million, which includes an increase of \$14 million over the current fiscal year.

At the February HESAA Board meeting, the Board adopted a budget policy statement for Fiscal Year 2015 recommending that TAG awards be increased by a flat percentage. If approved, this would eliminate the current model based on tuition levels of two years prior (neediest students) and four years prior (all other students), less a percentage to stay within budget.

With a base plus structure, instead of looking back at previous tuition levels, TAG tables would start at a base year beginning in FY 2014-2015. Each NJEI cell would increase by a set percentage annually, not to exceed full tuition at a public institution, or 50 percent of the average tuition at an independent institution as required by statute.

The Governor's budget endorsed the HESAA Board's recommendation and proposes a two percent across-the-board increase to all award levels at all institutions.

Please see the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter for the dates, times and locations of the Senate and Assembly budget committee hearings on Higher Education Services. My team and I look forward to preparing for these hearings and testifying on behalf of TAG and all the important student aid programs HESAA administers.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Charette, Esq.

Upcoming Events

HESAA Board Special Meeting
April 3, 2014
10 a.m.

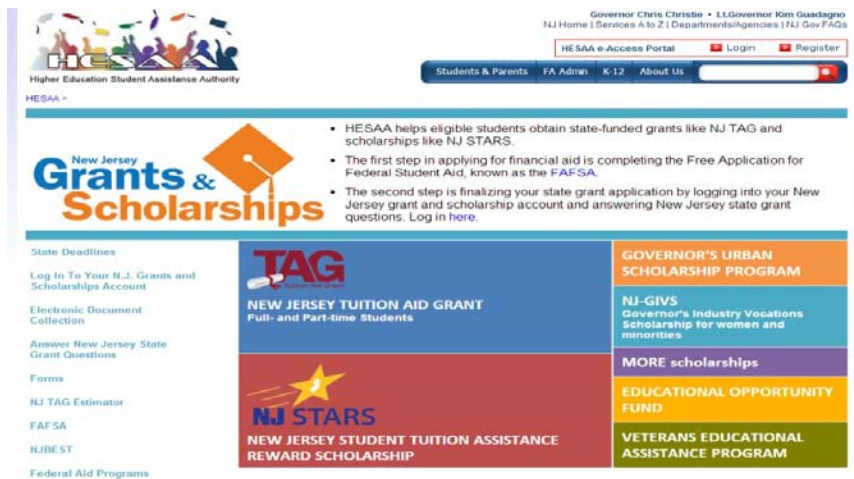
Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Meeting
Higher Education Services
Tuesday, April 8, 2014
10 a.m.
State House Annex
Committee Room 4
Trenton, NJ

NJASFAA Spring Conference State Update
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
3:30 p.m.
Pines Manor
2085 Route 27 (Lincoln Highway)
Edison, NJ

Student Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, April 11, 2014
11 a.m.
Building 2 Conference Room
HESAA Offices
2 Quakerbridge Plaza
Hamilton Township, NJ



Grants and Scholarships



Grants and Scholarships Gets a New Domain

The Grants and Scholarships Unit recently posted its new website, www.njgrants.org. The site welcomes visitors with bold colors, and a clean, uncluttered design that offers easy access to information about our programs. More enhancements are on the way, so visit often to see what's new!

Digital Scanning Simplifies Document Delivery

HESAA has implemented an electronic document collection tool, MappingXpress. The feature offers students and parents a convenient and secure connection to scan and send documents to HESAA. It also affords faster response to HESAA's requests for documentation. MappingXpress can be accessed at www.njgrants.org by clicking the tab for Electronic Document Collection.

This is the second time HESAA has improved service through MappingXpress. The application has already been successfully put into practice in the NJCLASS loan program.

HESAA Welcomes New Consultant

Ninfa Mueller, who recently retired from Rutgers University's Office of Financial Aid, will be joining HESAA's Grants and Scholarships Unit as a part-time consultant. Ninfa will be working with the special Grants and Scholarships – including but not limited to – the Governor's Urban Scholarship program, World Trade Center scholarship, NJBEST scholarship, Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Scholarship and the Survivor Tuition Benefits Program.

Updates

- Recruitment rosters are available for NJ STARS and the Governor's Urban Scholarship program. As opposed to award rosters, recruitment rosters are used to recruit prospective students.
- Applicant rosters for academic year 2014-2015 are also available, but without state verification indicators. State verification begins in April. The tax verification field will be populated at that time.

Upcoming Events (continued)

HESAA Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
11:30 a.m.

Building 2 Conference Room
HESAA Offices
2 Quakerbridge Plaza
Hamilton Township, NJ

New Jersey Advisory Committee on Student Aid (NJACSA) Meeting

Friday, April 25, 2014
10 a.m.

Building 2 Conference Room
HESAA Offices
2 Quakerbridge Plaza
Hamilton Township, NJ

Assembly Budget Committee Meeting

Higher Education Services
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
10:00 a.m.

State House Annex
Committee Room 11
Trenton, NJ

2014-2015 TAG Processing and State Verification Training

Friday, May 2, 2014
10 a.m.

Brookdale Community College
765 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft, NJ



Training Tip

Student forms and instructions for AY 2014-2015 have been posted. Listed below are quick links to commonly used forms.

Forms:

- Dependent Student Monthly Expense and Resource Statement
<http://www.hesaa.org/Documents/2014-15d.pdf>
- Independent Student Monthly Expense and Resource Statement
<http://www.hesaa.org/Documents/2014-15i.pdf>
- Missing Parent's Signature Form
<http://www.hesaa.org/Documents/MPSF.pdf>

Instructions:

- Requesting an IRS Tax Return Transcript
<http://www.hesaa.org/Documents/RequestIRSTRT.pdf>
- Sample IRS Tax Return Transcript and Schedule E
<http://www.hesaa.org/Documents/IRSTRTScheduleESamples.pdf>

Congratulations to Former HESAA Staff Members

Wil Casaine has been promoted to Executive Director of Financial Aid & The Center for Student Success at The College of New Jersey. Wil formerly served as HESAA's Associate Director of Grants and Scholarships.

AnnMarie Bouse, HESAA's former Director of Communications, has joined Rutgers, the State University, as the Manager of Compliance and Quality Assurance.

Loans

NJCLASS Now Processing Loans for AY 2014-2015

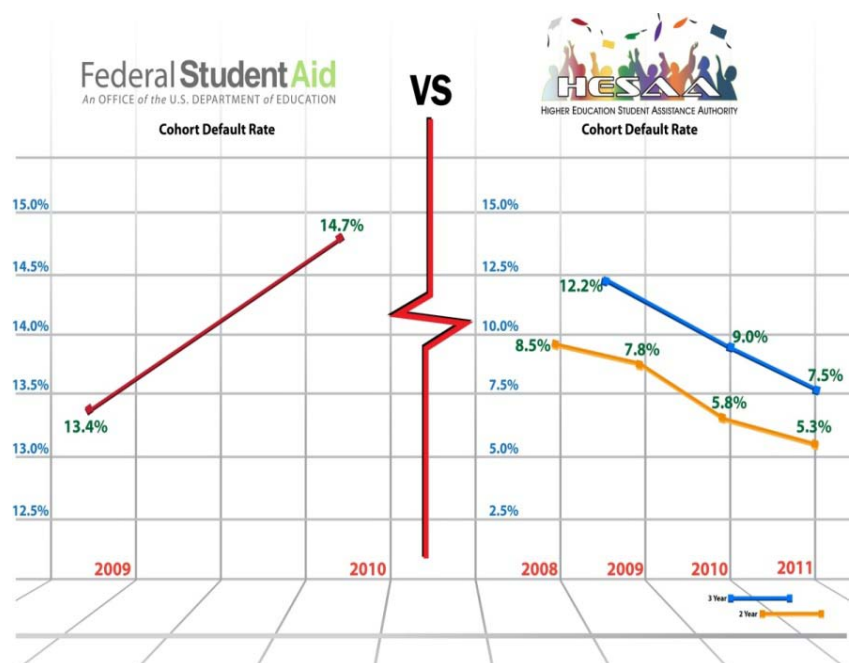


HESAA is now processing NJCLASS loan applications for the upcoming academic year. Pre-approved loan applications will remain active and will not be cancelled if school certification is pending.

When we receive your certification later this year, NJCLASS will advise students and families that the loan offer is available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sharon Austin at (609) 588-3136 or saustin@hesaa.org.

HESAA Training Can Help Reduce Defaulted Student Debt

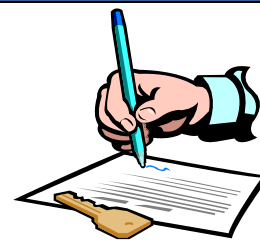
While student borrowing continues to rise, HESAA's cohort default rates for both federal loans and for NJCLASS loans have been declining. HESAA is happy to lend its expertise in managing delinquencies and defaults to New Jersey's colleges and universities. Please contact Andre Maglione at 609-584-4486, or amaglione@hesaa.org, to see how HESAA can help your institution.



Compliance and Quality Assurance

Due Diligence Advised in Choice of Third-Party Providers

Compliance failures could expose an institution to critical review from the USDE and jeopardize institutional Title IV funding.



Recent regulatory enforcement actions involving institutions of higher education around the country highlight the importance of exercising due diligence when it comes to an institution's decision to partner with external service providers.

Of particular concern are third-party contracts for online coursework not directly controlled or governed by the institution itself. Similarly, the control issue applies to schools that partner with banks to provide students with financial services. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has been increasingly critical of those arrangements, which can lack transparency and raise concern that students could be liable for unanticipated fees and charges.

Contact Us



New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

4 Quakerbridge Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08625

www.hesaa.org

609-584-4480 (English and Español)

Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

General Business Hours

Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HESAA Customer Care Line

609-584-4480 (English and Español)

Monday through Thursday

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grants and Scholarships

609-588-3268

NJCLASS

609-584-4480

Lender and School Relations

609-588-3136

Fax Numbers

Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)

Fax 609-588-2228

Loan Servicing and Collections

Fax 609-588-7285

NJCLASS Loan Origination/Processing

Fax 609-631-6730

HESAA Technical Support

for user ID, password, login and registration issues 609-588-3315 or

HelpDesk@hesaa.org

E-mail

clientservices@hesaa.org

Questions about applying for financial aid, including NJCLASS or grants and scholarships

servicingandcollections@hesaa.org

Questions about repaying your loan with HESAA

Postal Mail

for correspondence and application documents



HESAA Grants & Scholarships

P.O. Box 540

Trenton, NJ 08625-0540



NJCLASS

Application Processing

NJCLASS Originations

P.O. Box 538

Trenton, NJ 08625-0538

Student Loan Servicing (correspondence only)

HESAA Servicing

P.O. Box 548

Trenton, NJ 08625-0548

HESAA is the only State agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue education beyond the high school level. With roots dating back to 1959, HESAA's singular focus has always been the benefit of the students we serve.