

## Archived Information

# Section 4

## **National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) Program**

The Higher Education Amendments of 1992 authorized funds for the creation of the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) Program. Under this program, states carry out the activities of both an early intervention component and a scholarship component.

Under the NEISP Program, the Secretary provides states with grants to

- ◇ encourage the states to provide or maintain a guaranteed amount of financial assistance necessary to permit eligible low-income students who obtain high school diplomas or the equivalent to attend institutions of higher education; and
- ◇ provide financial incentives to enable states—in cooperation with local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, community organizations, and businesses—to provide a variety of early intervention services.

These services include

- ◇ providing additional counseling, mentoring, academic support, outreach, and support services to preschool, elementary, middle, and secondary school students who are at risk of dropping out of school; and
- ◇ providing students and their parents with information on the advantages of postsecondary education and on their postsecondary financial options.

When program appropriations are less than \$50 million (as they will be for 1997-98), states must apply for funds through a discretionary grant competition. For the 1997-98 award year, funding has been approved for both the early intervention component and the scholarship component. (Currently, nine states are receiving funds.) Also for the 1997-98 award year, those current nine state grantees are expected to be funded and will use all available federal funds. No new state applications will be considered. (The nine states currently receiving funds are California, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.)



**Grants provide financial incentives for states**

**Program appropriation for 1997-98**

When enough federal funds are available to provide for a new state applicant grant competition, the program will be run as a discretionary grant program and funds will be allotted to states on a competitive basis. The Secretary will evaluate each state's application on how well each state fulfills its responsibilities in

- ◇ submitting to the Secretary an initial plan and application for carrying out the activities under the NEISP Program,
- ◇ fulfilling the NEISP Program's early intervention component, and
- ◇ fulfilling the NEISP Program's scholarship component.

***Evaluation  
of new state  
applications***

The new state applications are evaluated using selection criteria, which take into consideration the state's

- ◇ need for the program,
- ◇ plan of operation,
- ◇ quality and qualification of the personnel who will be running the program in the state,
- ◇ budget and cost effectiveness,
- ◇ adequacy of resources,
- ◇ likelihood of success,
- ◇ public and private support,
- ◇ coordination with other early intervention activities,
- ◇ willingness to contribute more than half the program costs and the extent to which the state will overmatch its federal allotment, and
- ◇ evaluation report plan.

## *STATE ELIGIBILITY*

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A state must submit to the Secretary a state plan and an annual application describing in detail how the state will carry out the activities of both the early intervention component and the scholarship component. The state must also describe how it will provide matching funds for the program.

The agency responsible for administering the NEISP Program in each participating state is designated by the state's governor. That agency may be either the state's SSIG agency, the State Education Agency (SEA), or another agency approved by the Secretary. (The SEA is the agency responsible for supervising the state's public elementary and secondary schools.)

***State agency  
designated  
by governor***

## *MATCHING REQUIREMENTS*

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In its plan, a state must demonstrate to the Secretary that it will provide from state, local, or private funds at least half of the program costs and describe how those funds will be paid. All funds expended under this program must supplement, and not supplant, funds expended for existing state and local programs. A state may match the federal funds by means of

- ◇ scholarships or grants paid to students under the program from state, local, or private funds;
- ◇ tuition, fees, room or board waived or reduced for recipients under this program; and
- ◇ funds expended on documented, targeted, long-term mentoring and counseling provided by volunteers or paid staff of nonschool organizations.

## *EARLY INTERVENTION COMPONENT*

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Early intervention activities include comprehensive mentoring, counseling, outreach, and support services (including postsecondary financial aid counseling) to students in preschool through grade 12.

**Permissible activities allowed under this component**

States may provide eligible students in certain grade levels (preschool through grade 12) with a continuing system of mentoring and advising that is coordinated with the federal and state community service initiatives. Permissible activities under this component may include

- ◇ after-school and summer-school tutoring,
- ◇ assistance in obtaining summer jobs,
- ◇ career mentoring, and
- ◇ academic counseling.

**Participating students must agree to achieve certain academic milestones**

Participating eligible students may enter an agreement under which they agree to achieve certain academic milestones (for a time period established by each state) in exchange for receiving tuition assistance. Such milestones would include completing a prescribed set of courses and maintaining satisfactory academic progress.

Activities must be designed to ensure high school completion and college enrollment of at-risk children.

States may provide pre-freshman summer programs that

- ◇ are at institutions of higher education with programs of academic-year supportive services for disadvantaged students;
- ◇ assure the participation of disadvantaged students;
- ◇ provide summer instruction in remedial, developmental, or supportive courses, or summer services such as counseling, tutoring, or orientation;
- ◇ provide grant aid to cover pre-freshman summer costs; and
- ◇ assure that participating eligible students will receive financial aid during each academic year they are enrolled at the participating institution after the pre-freshman summer.

**Providers of early intervention activities**

Early intervention activities may be provided by community-based organizations, schools, public and private agencies, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, businesses, and other organizations the Secretary deems appropriate.

The state must treat as a priority student for its early intervention component any student in preschool through grade 12 who is eligible

- ◇ to be counted as attending a Chapter 1 school (a Chapter 1 school serves educationally and economically deprived students),
- ◇ for the National School Lunch Program, or
- ◇ for Aid to Families with Dependent Children assistance.

### ***SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT***

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Each participating state must establish or maintain a financial assistance program for participating students. States are encouraged to ensure that tuition assistance under the NEISP Program is available for use at any institution of higher education that participates in the Federal Pell Grant Program.

Each state sets the maximum amount a participating student may receive under the NEISP Program. The minimum amount of the scholarship shall not be less than the lesser of

- ◇ 75% of the average cost of attendance for an in-state student enrolled in a four-year program of instruction at a public institution of higher education in the state or
- ◇ the maximum funded Federal Pell Grant for that fiscal year.

### ***STUDENT ELIGIBILITY***

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To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this component, a student must

- ◇ meet the relevant eligibility requirements contained in Subpart C of the General Provisions regulations (34 CFR Parts 668.31 - 39);
- ◇ be under 22 years of age at the time of the first grant award;
- ◇ receive a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent on or after January 1, 1993;
- ◇ be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education that is located within the state (however, a state may offer scholarship portability for recipients who attend institutions outside the state); and

***Each state sets its own maximum award***

- ◇ have participated in the state early intervention component under the NEISP Program or, at the option of the state, have successfully participated in either an Upward Bound program or another early intervention program comparable to the NEISP Program.

A summary of the relevant requirements from the General Provisions regulations can be found on page 9 - 6 of this chapter.

If a state includes academic milestones in a student agreement and requires the student to meet those milestones to be eligible for a scholarship, then the student must have met or exceeded the milestones to receive the scholarship. The student agreement is made under the NEISP early intervention component. Under this agreement, the state will provide postsecondary tuition assistance to a student during a period of time to be established by the state if the student agrees to achieve certain academic milestones.

**Consideration  
of need and  
low-income  
status**

Federal Pell Grant recipients with the greatest financial need receive priority consideration in receiving aid under this component. In determining the greatest financial need, a state may rank students according to their Expected Family Contributions (EFCs) or rank them according to their need as prioritized under the state's criteria for low-income students. (If the state chooses to use its own criteria for ranking purposes, those criteria must first be approved by the Department.)

***PACKAGING AID***

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Tuition assistance under this program is not to be considered for the purpose of awarding SFA aid. However, the total of SFA aid and scholarship aid awarded under this component must not exceed the student's cost of attendance.

***ALLOTMENT TO STATES***

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Under full funding, the program statute authorizes \$200 million for both components of the NEISP Program. However, in a fiscal year when funding is less than \$50 million, the Secretary allots funds to states on a competitive basis if funds are available for new awards. During 1997-98, there will be no federal funding available for new states. (See page 9-28.)

A state may not use less than 25% or more than 50% of its federal allotment for the early intervention component of the NEISP Program. The 50% maximum may be waived for a state that can demonstrate that it has other ways of providing students' tuition assistance.

## *EVALUATION*

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Each participating state must evaluate its early intervention component every two years according to standards and requirements established by the Secretary. The report summarizes and evaluates the state's activities and the performance of its student participants.

## *ADDITIONAL INFORMATION*

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As stated previously, only the nine currently funded states (listed on the bottom of page 28) are participating during 1997-98, and no new state applications will be accepted. Therefore, there is no listing of agencies in Section 5 of this chapter as there is for each of the other programs covered in Chapter 9. Direct any questions about NEISP Program procedures to the program office at 202-708-8242.