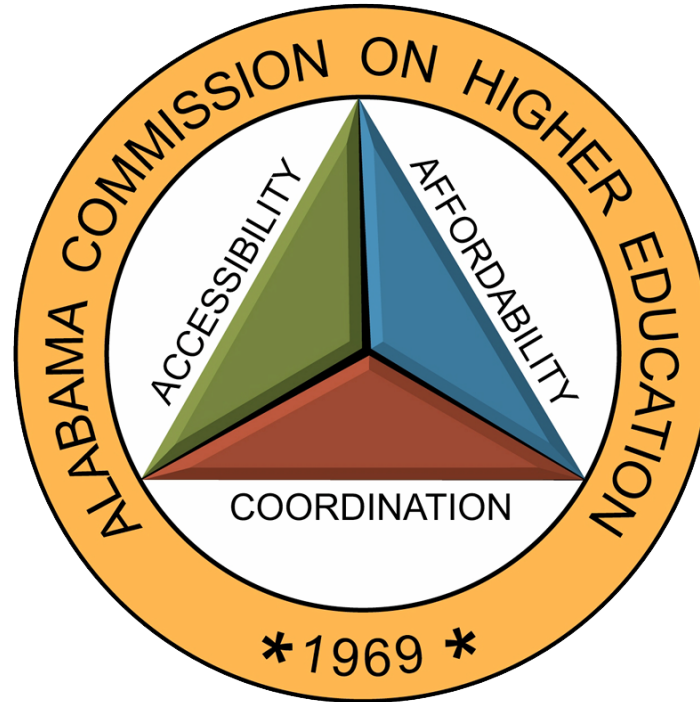


Alabama Commission on Higher Education



Special Called Commission Meeting
July 7, 2026



I. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL and QUORUM DETERMINATION



III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA



**Commission Meeting Agenda
of July 7, 2026**

Motion, Item III:

That the Commission accept the agenda for the July 7, 2026 meeting.

IV. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS



Alabama Administrative Procedure (APA)

- APA, established in 1981, creates uniform state rulemaking procedures to ensure transparency, public notice, and opportunities for public comment, requiring all new rules and revisions be filed through the Legislative Services Agency (LSA).
- Rules published in AL Administrative Code and the **AL Administrative Monthly (AAM)** at <https://admincode.legislature.state.al.us/administrative-monthly>
- **APA Process:**
 - ✓ **Step 1:** Commission Action → APA-1 Submission → Public Notice → Comment Period
 - **Step 2:** Commission Action → APA-3 Submission → Public Notice → **Effective Date**

APA Timeline for Today's Items

Items A – D

Procedural Code	Submission Deadline	Publication Date	Effective Date
APA-3 <u>Certified</u> Admin Code	July 20, 2026	July 31, 2026	September 14, 2026

Item E

Procedural Code	Submission Deadline	Publication Date	Comment Period
APA-1 <u>Proposed</u> Admin Code	July 20, 2026	July 31, 2026	September 4, 2026

Key Takeaways

- ❖ Special called meeting preserves critical implementation timelines.
- ❖ Administrative Code revisions improve the speed, clarity, and effectiveness of program implementation.
- ❖ Timely action helps reduce delays for students and institutions.
- ❖ ACHE remains committed to transparency, accountability, and responsiveness.

V. DECISION ITEMS



Approval Process for the Amendments to the Administrative Procedures

- **Once the Commission approves the proposed preliminary amendments to the Administrative Procedures at today's meeting, the proposed amendments will be filed with the Legislative Services Agency (LSA).**
- **The Proposed Administrative Procedures (APA-1) will then be published in the Alabama Administrative Monthly, initiating a 45-day public comment period for interested parties to review and provide feedback on the proposed amendments.**
- **Following the public comment period, the proposed final Administrative Procedures will be presented to the Commission at the next Special Called Commission meeting for consideration and final approval.**
- **Upon final approval by the Commission, the Certified Administrative Procedures (APA-3) will be filed with LSA. The amended procedures will become effective no sooner than 45 days after publication of the certification notice.**

A. Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-4: Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan



300-4-4-.01 Organization.

(1) It is the responsibility of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to establish rules and regulations for the administration and implementation of the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (ANGEAP). ~~The Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program is administered in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education~~ in collaboration with the State Military Department.

(2) The Alabama Commission on Higher Education appoints such staff as are necessary to ensure efficient operation of the program ~~and is the final authority in determining eligible program applicants.~~

(3) The Adjutant General of the State of Alabama ~~serves as an advisor to the~~ shall be the final authority in determining the selection of individuals to receive assistance.

(4) The Alabama Commission on Higher Education ~~for the purpose of~~ shall be the final authority in determining the eligibility of members of the Alabama National Guard to receive benefits through the ANGEAP. eligible expenses to which assistance may be applied.

(1) ~~Academic Excellence Benefits~~ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BENEFITS: Additional funds for guard members who are enrolled undergraduate students who graduated from high school with a cumulative GPA greater than 3.5 and, while enrolled in an institution of higher education in this state, have maintained a 3.0 collegiate cumulative GPA. These funds can be used for tuition, fees, or ancillary costs.

~~(2)~~(a) Any member receiving Academic Year Excellence Assistance prior to August 1, 2026, shall continue to receive the same amount of assistance until he or she completes the course or workforce development program.

(2) ACADEMIC YEAR: The academic year for Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program purposes is from October 1 of one year to September 30 of the next year.

(3) ~~Active Member~~ACTIVE MEMBER: A member of a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard meeting the minimum requirements for satisfactory membership as defined in the Department of the Army and Department of the Air Force regulations.

(4) ~~Alabama National Guard~~ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD: Federally recognized units of the Alabama National Guard.

(4) ~~Alabama National Guard~~ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD: Federally recognized units of the Alabama National Guard.

(5) ~~Ancillary Costs~~ANCILLARY COSTS: Expenses ~~associated with enrollment in an educational program that are not included within the standard assessment~~incurred outside of tuition and fees. ~~Ancillary costs may include books, supplies, and professional fees and are typically included within the calculation for cost of attendance. For the purposes of the ANGEAP tuition and fees reimbursement, ancillary costs are not an eligible expense. ANGEAP recipients who qualify for the Academic Excellence Benefits can utilize funds to cover these~~expenses related to educational costs, including textbooks, additional course fees, differential tuition, or other course-related or training program costs.

(6) ~~Cost of Attendance: As defined by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid, cost of attendance is an estimate of that student's educational expenses for the period of enrollment, which is used in calculating the total federal student aid a student may receive. Cost of attendance includes tuition and fees, as well as ancillary costs and personal expenses, such as room and board. For the purposes of ANGEAP, not all cost of attendance expenses are considered eligible.~~

~~(7) Differential Tuition: A supplementary charge amount added on top of base tuition rate~~DIFFERENTIAL TUITION: The amount, in addition to regular tuition, which is charged to students to support additional services and programming for a subset of students enrolled in a particular college or program. Program-specific differential tuition is often charged for those academic programs that have high operating costs. For the purposes of ANGEAP, differential tuition is not considered an eligible expense.

(7) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS: The payment or assistance shall be

(a) Made to the institution ~~promptly at the end~~ within 90 days after the beginning of the academic period of each academic ~~term (quarter or semester) for all~~ for all tuition assistance payments depending on the availability of funding;

(b) Made on the basis of certified ~~invoices/~~ ~~vouchers~~ institutional roster or other documentation approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education verifying enrollment, eligibility, and allowable charges for each participating member submitted by the institution to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

(c) Supported by names of the students receiving the assistance, together with the amounts claimed for each student.

(d) The tuition assistance authorized under this article may be used for undergraduate or graduate studies. Should funds appropriated to the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program be insufficient to provide each eligible student with a full grant payment for any ~~term~~ academic period(s) during an academic year, then the awards will be prorated equally among the institutions on a percentage basis of the total invoices/vouchers received and paid accordingly.

(8) EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES. The per term cost of required on-campus living expenses, such as the cost of living in a residence hall or dormitory, and per term cost of required on-campus meal plans.

(9) ~~Educational Grant~~EDUCATIONAL GRANT. A grant is defined as a financial award by the State of Alabama to an Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program applicant who is designated to be an eligible student enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in an eligible program at an eligible institution, and is awarded on a per academic term basis to the student to defray direct educational-related expenses: tuition and cost of instruction fees, not to exceed the median cost of tuition per academic term of all state-supported Alabama four year institutions for classes or courses that count towards the individual's degree or certificate plan as designed and approved by the college or institution attended for the individual's declared program of study, less any Alabama Student Grant Program proceeds for which the student may be eligible and after all federal benefits have been applied to the account of the student. The median tuition amount per academic term will be determined by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education based on its Tuition and Fee Report, which will be prorated according to academic term. Payments or assistance to recipients shall not extend beyond twelve (12) years after the date of the first grant payment issued to the ~~student~~active member through this program.

(10) ~~Eligible~~ ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION. An eligible institution is a public or private institution of higher education which:

(a) is in Alabama;

(b) admits as regular students only persons who have a high school diploma, or who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in Alabama; and who have the ability to benefit from the training offered;

(c) is legally authorized to provide an educational program beyond secondary education;

(d) provides an educational program for which it awards a certificate, associate, baccalaureate, master's, doctorate degree, or workforce training program;

(e) is accredited by a nationally-recognized accrediting agency or association; and

(f) executes an agreement with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to participate in the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program+.

(11) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM. An eligible program is any program leading to a certificate, associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctorate degree in an accredited institution of higher learning, technical college, or community college within the State of Alabama.

(12) ~~Eligible Student~~:ELIGIBLE STUDENT. An eligible student is an ~~applicant~~active member who completes an application for an Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program application, and

(a) Is classified as a student enrolled in a certificate, associate, baccalaureate, master's, ~~or~~ doctorate degree program or a workforce development program;

(k) Is classified as one of the following:

1. Is a student dually or concurrently enrolled in high school and an institution of higher education;

2. Is a postsecondary student who is enrolled in an institution of higher education; or

3. Is a postsecondary student who is dually or concurrently enrolled in more than one institution of higher education and is enrolled in a program leading to a qualifying academic pathway, including a ~~short certificate or long certificate, or~~workforce development program, an associate, baccalaureate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate degree in an accredited institution of higher learning, including a community or technical college ~~withing~~or an approved nonaccredited course or certificate program within the State of Alabama.

(i) The Adjutant General and the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education shall mutually determine to which workforce development- programs tuition assistance may be applied. Any entity program seeking to be a workforce development program shall be registered as a vendor with this state.

(ii) The Adjutant General and the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education shall mutually determine how assistance may be applied to each workforce development program.

(1) Is in pursuit of his/her first undergraduate or graduate degree. ~~Students~~Active members may continue to receive ANGEAP if they obtain an associate degree and then transfer to a senior institution in order to complete a baccalaureate degree. ANGEAP will not pay for multiple degrees at the same degree award level (i.e., certificate, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, master's degree or doctoral degree).

(16) ~~Qualifying Academic Pathway~~ PROFESSIONAL FEES. Non-instructional expenses that are specific to a subset of students enrolled in particular college, academic program, or academic classification (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) and do not apply to all students enrolled in a given degree level (undergraduate or graduate). Examples include but are not limited to graduation fees, examination fees, and clinical/practicum fees.

(17) PROGRAM-SPECIFIC FEES. Additional fees specific to certain academic programs or courses of study. These fees are charged in addition to the standard tuition fees and are meant to cover the costs associated with offering specialized programs or courses.

(18) QUALIFYING ACADEMIC PATHWAY. A postsecondary program at an institution of higher education in the state that is one of the following:

(a) A program that has been identified as a Pell Grant eligible program for which the student earns credits required for a postsecondary degree at the undergraduate level.

(b) A graduate program that is the individual's first degree sought at that level.

~~(17) Professional Fees: Non-instructional expenses that are specific to a subset of students enrolled in particular college, academic classification (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) and do not apply to all students enrolled in a given degree level (undergraduate or graduate). Examples include but are not limited to graduation fees, examination fees, and clinical/practicum fees. For the purposes of ANGEAP tuition and fees reimbursement, professional fees are not considered an eligible expense. ANGEAP recipients who qualify for the Academic Excellence Benefits can utilize funds to cover these expenses.~~

(23) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. A professional or workforce development program that includes accredited and nonaccredited certification or stand-alone training that leads to an industry-recognized credential and is approved pursuant to Section 31-10-3(c) of Act 2026-521.

(1) The following procedures shall be the method used by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for making available Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program awards to eligible students at eligible institutions:

(f) Information received from applicants shall be evaluated by the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program Office.

1. Incomplete applications received shall be returned to the eligible institution or the ~~student-applicant~~active member.

2. Complete applications of eligible students shall be compared with monies available.

3. All Alabama Student Grant Program proceeds for which the ~~student~~active member may be eligible shall be deducted from the tuition figure used for Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program purposes.

4. In no event shall payments of the tuition ~~reimbursement~~and fees, educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance under the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program amount to more than 100% of qualified tuition and fees as defined in .02(21).

5. An undergraduate student who qualifies for the—
Academic Excellence Benefits as defined in .02(1) shall—
receive an amount equivalent to 100% of qualified
tuition and fees. Undergraduate students with this
benefit may use these funds for tuition and fee
reimbursement or ancillary costs as defined in .02(5).

6. Applicants eligible for the Educational Grant award
~~and Academic Excellence Benefits~~for tuition and fees,
educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance will
receive a total amount award not to exceed the median
cost of tuition per academic term of all state-supported
Alabama four-year institutions. ~~For the first term of
implementation under SB 67, Act 2023-528, award payments
for the Educational Grant and Academic Excellence
Benefits on behalf of the grant recipients will be
processed and sent to the institutions at the end of the
term, provided the final approval by the Commission Board
at its December 2023 Commission Meeting.~~

7. Applicant eligibility for undergraduate and graduate levels:

(i) Undergraduate: The first undergraduate degree obtained is a baccalaureate degree. ~~Short certificates, long certificates, Workforce development programs~~ and associate degrees of qualifying academic pathways may be used to obtain a baccalaureate degree. The tuition ~~reimbursement and academic excellence benefits~~ and fees, educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance provided by this article shall only pay for the first baccalaureate degree. The tuition ~~reimbursement and academic excellence benefits~~ and fees, educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance for undergraduate students under this program shall be claimed for no more than a total of 120 academic hours or until receipt of the first bachelor's degree for which the scholarship is used, whichever comes first. The total of 120 academic hours includes no more than a total of 72 academic hours earned at a community college. ~~A guard~~ An active member who has already obtained a ~~baccalaureate bachelor's~~ degree is not eligible to receive tuition ~~reimbursement or academic excellence benefits~~ assistance for coursework leading to a second degree at the same level.

(ii) Graduate: If the benefits were not used by ~~a guard~~ the active member for a ~~baccalaureate bachelor's~~ degree, the tuition ~~reimbursement and Academic Excellence Benefits~~ and fees, educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance for graduate students under this article shall be claimed for no more than a total of 60 academic hours or until the receipt of the first graduate degree whichever comes first. ~~A guard~~ An active member who has already obtained a graduate degree is not eligible to receive tuition ~~reimbursement and fees, educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance~~ for coursework leading to a second degree at the same level.

8. No ~~guard~~active member shall be eligible for tuition ~~reimbursement or Academic Excellence Benefits~~and fees, educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance for more than 12 years after the date of the first tuition payment to ~~him or her~~the active member under this article.

9. ~~Reimbursement shall be made promptly to the institutions at the end~~The payment or assistance shall be

(i) Made within 90 days after the beginning of the academic period of each academic ~~term~~ (quarter or semester) ~~for all~~ for all tuition assistance payments depending on the availability of funding;

(ii) made on the basis of certified ~~invoices~~ institutional roster or other documentation approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education verifying enrollment, eligibility, and allowable charges for each participating member submitted by the institution to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education; and

(iii) supported by names of the students receiving the assistance, together with the amounts claimed for each student.

(1) The Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program shall determine from the completed applications received from all ~~students~~active members the sufficiency of funds. Award amounts are not to exceed the median cost of tuition per academic term of a state-supported Alabama four-year institution, less any Alabama Student Grant Program proceeds for which the ~~student~~active member may be eligible and after all federal benefits have been applied to the account of the ~~student~~active member, nor shall any ~~student~~active member receive a grant at more than one approved institution during any one academic term. The median tuition amount per academic term will be determined by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education based on its Tuition and Fee Report.

(2) The Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program shall determine the dollar amount of each grant and shall prepare a voucher each term requesting that the State Comptroller disburse Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program funds for eligible students. ~~Reimbursement shall be made promptly at the end~~The payment or assistance shall be

(a) Made within 90 days after the beginning of the academic period of each academic ~~term~~ (quarter or semester) ~~for all~~ for all tuition assistance payments depending on the availability of funding;

(b) Made on the basis of certified ~~invoices~~ institutional roster or other documentation approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education verifying enrollment, eligibility, and allowable charges for each participating member submitted by the institution to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education; and

(c) Supported by names of the students receiving the assistance, together with the amounts claimed for each student.

(4) If ~~a student~~an active member whose eligibility for a grant has been certified by an approved institution becomes ineligible for a grant before the expiration of the institutional tuition refund period, the grant funds shall not be delivered to the ~~student~~active member, but shall be returned to the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program Office. Funds are considered received by ~~a~~an eligible student when the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program check is delivered to the eligible student.

(5) No ~~guard~~active member shall be eligible for tuition ~~reimbursement or Academic Excellence Benefits~~and fees, educational expenses, or ancillary cost assistance for more than 12 years after the date of the first tuition payment to ~~him or her~~the active member under this article.

Motion, Decision Item A:

That the Commission approve the Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-4: Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program.

B. Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-12: Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan



CHAPTER 300-4-12
LOAN ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATORS IN ALABAMA ~~MATH AND~~
~~SCIENCE TEACHER EDUCATION~~ (LASEA) PROGRAM

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300-4-12-.07 Organization For Loan ~~Repayment~~ Assistance
Program.

(1) It is the responsibility of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) to establish rules and regulations for the administration and implementation of the Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama ~~Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP) Loan Repayment (LASEA)~~ Program. The program will be administered in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

(2) The Alabama Commission on Higher Education appoints such staff as are necessary to ensure efficient operation of the program and is the final authority in determining eligible program applicants.

(3) ACHE shall submit an annual report to the Governor and to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation-Education and the House Ways and Means Education Committee and the Deputy Director of the Legislative Services Agency - Fiscal Division within 30 days after September 30th of any given year including updates on all aspects of the program.

(1) To encourage individuals to enroll in and complete educator programs ~~leading to~~ identified as having acute educator shortages and obtain Alabama certification in ~~mathematics, science or computer science~~ those programs.

(2) To improve the educational system in Alabama by encouraging those who complete ~~the program~~ and obtain certification in acute educator shortage programs to accept ~~math, science or computer science teaching~~ educator positions in Alabama public K-12 schools, ~~preferably in public or~~ school systems, including charter schools, ~~where the~~ that have been identified as acute educator shortage of math, science or computer science teachers, or any combination of the three, is most acute, or in a school which has been designated as a failing school, by the State Board of Education or the Legislature. locations.

Definitions For Loan ~~Repayment~~ Assistance
Program.

(1) ACUTE EDUCATOR SHORTAGE. A shortage of certified educators in identified educator programs as determined by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in consultation with the State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services.

(2) ACUTE EDUCATOR SHORTAGE LOCATION. A public K-12 school or school system that has been identified as having an acute educator shortage.

(3) APPROVED INSTITUTION. A state-supported institution of higher education or a private nonprofit institution of higher education that satisfies all of the following:

(a) Is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

(b) Is approved by the ~~Alabama~~ State Board of Education ~~(ALSBE)~~ to prepare ~~teachers of middle level secondary math, science or computer science~~ educators in programs identified as having an acute educator shortage.

(c) Is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid program funds.

~~(d)~~ Maintains its primary headquarters in Alabama ~~(4)~~ BASE SUPPORT. Loan assistance in support of educators who are certified in a program identified as having an acute educator shortage pursuant to Section 16-5-54.

~~(2)~~ (5) CHARTER SCHOOL. A form of public K-12 school. ~~A teacher established pursuant to Chapter 6F. An educator employed by a charter school accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is eligible to participate in the program. A teacher~~ for the base support provided in this article. An educator employed by a charter school is not eligible for the ~~acute shortage area supplement~~ supplemental support provided in this article.

~~(3)~~ (6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

~~(4)~~ (7) EDUCATOR. A full-time employee of a public K-12 school or school system whose function is to work with students in support of their efforts to learn and obtain an education.

(8) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT. A person ~~An individual~~ who satisfies the criteria set out in this act and is found to be eligible by rules adopted by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

~~(5)~~ (9) PROGRAM. The Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama ~~Math and Science Teacher Education Program~~ (LASEA) Program created by this article and administered by the commission provides loan ~~repayments~~ assistance to a teacher ~~an educator with a valid Alabama professional educator certificate who is endorsed in math, science or computer science, who teaches math, science or computer science courses for which the teacher is properly certified for three-fourths of the full-time teaching load in the Alabama public school system~~ a program identified as having an acute educator shortage.

(10) SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT. Loan assistance in support of educators who qualify for base support pursuant to Section 16-5-54 and are employed in an acute educator shortage location.

(10) SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT. Loan assistance in support of educators who qualify for base support pursuant to Section 16-5-54 and are employed in an acute educator shortage location.

~~(6) SCIENCE. Biology, chemistry, physics, and general science.~~

~~(7)(11) YEAR. A school year that shall be divided into~~The fall and spring semesters. ~~The term does not mean calendar, fiscal, or scholastic year.~~ of an academic year of a public K-12 school or school system.

**300-4-12-.10 Rule Making Authority For Loan
RepaymentAssistance Program.**

(1) The Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama ~~Math and Science Teacher Education~~ (LASEA) Program shall be administered by the commission, which may adopt ~~any~~ rules necessary for the administration of the program.

(2) A percentage of any annual appropriations received by the program, not to exceed 10 percent, may be expended for its operation and maintenance. Any funds appropriated to the program shall be non-reverting at the end of each fiscal year.

(3) The determination of acute educator shortages and acute educator shortage locations shall be made at least once every academic year.

300-4-12-.11 Eligible Applicants And Award Amounts For Loan
RepaymentAssistance Program.

(1) The program shall provide two levels of payment for loan assistance:

(a) Base Program: Beginning in the Fall 2022 semester new applicants will be eligible for the base loan repayment program for math and science teachers of support in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7, 500) per year worked or three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750) per semester worked or \$7,500 per year, for a maximum of four consecutive years, or to be eligible for the base loan repayment program for computer science teachers of and

(b) Supplemental support in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year worked or one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per semester worked or \$3,000 per year, for a maximum of four consecutive years an. Depending on eligibility, an eligible applicant may receive the base support or both the base support and supplemental support.

(2) To be eligible for the base support an eligible applicant shall satisfy all of the following:

~~(a) Be a graduate of an ALSBE approved program in math or~~

~~(d)~~ Is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

~~(e)~~ (b) Is a resident of Alabama and provides documentation proving a permanent connection to the State of Alabama. The commission shall accept any one of the following as proof of residency:

1. A current valid Alabama driver license.
2. A current valid Alabama vehicle registration.
3. A current valid Alabama voter registration card.

~~(f) Has outstanding federal student loans, subsidized or~~

~~unsubsidized~~ (c) Is a graduate of an approved program at the baccalaureate or master's level from an approved institution and has been issued an Alabama educator certificate based upon completion of the approved program identified as having an acute educator shortage. An educator who only earns a passing score on the Praxis test to add a certificate endorsement for an approved program and has not completed the approved program does not satisfy this requirement.

(c) Is employed by a public K-12 school or school system.

~~(g) Teaches~~ (d) Maintains a schedule in which at least three-fourths of the full-time ~~teaching load is comprised of math, science or computer science in an Alabama public school system~~ workload addresses an acute educator shortage.

(e) Has outstanding federal student loans, subsidized or unsubsidized.

~~(h) (f)~~ Satisfies additional continuing eligibility criteria established by the Commission. ~~A recipient who receives a loan repayment award and continues to satisfy employment criteria shall continue to receive an award for the four-year limit regardless of whether the employing school system retains its acute shortage designation or the employing school is removed from the failing school list. If a recipient leaves~~

(3) To be eligible for the supplemental support an eligible application must meet the criteria listed in 300-4-12-.11(2) and also be employed in an acute ~~shortage system or a failing school, and accepts employment in a school system or school that does not hold an acute~~ educator shortage system or failing school designation, the recipient shall no longer qualify to receive supplemental funds location.

~~(i)~~ (4) Beginning in the fall semester of 2021, the benefits outlined above shall also apply to ~~the following~~ eligible individuals, ~~pending authorization to teach~~ who are authorized to be educators in Alabama and ~~subsequent employment~~ are subsequently employed in an Alabama public K-12 school~~+~~

1. ~~An individual or school system,~~ who graduated ~~beginning with the Spring term of 2018 forward~~ from a regionally accredited college or university in ~~Alabama or in another state who is certified to teach math, science, or computer science in another state~~ at the baccalaureate or master's level after the 2021 spring semester term, and who may or may not reside within Alabama, exempting 300-4-12-.11(2)(b).

~~Alabama institution and who holds an initial middle~~ (5) Public K-1 level or secondary professional educator certificate endorsed
~~system~~2 schools or school ~~that does not hold an~~

~~(a) Public school systems and schools~~ with acute educator shortages ~~in math or science or both~~ will be identified by the Commission in consultation with the Alabama State Department of Education.

~~(b)~~ (6) The Commission will approve the public K-12 schools and school systems ~~and schools~~ in which ~~teachers~~ educators will be eligible for the supplement.

~~(c)~~ (7) The list of eligible public schools and school systems ~~and schools~~ will be published on the Commission's website.

(8) Any eligible applicant who met the requirements of the program and received a loan assistance prior to August 1, 2026, shall remain eligible for loan repayments pursuant to the requirements of the program as long as they remain continuously employed with a qualifying school.

(9) Educators who obtained their certifications through an alternative certification program and received loan repayments under AMSTEP are no longer eligible for loan assistance under Act 2026-303.

300-4-12-.12 Application Procedures For Loan
RepaymentAssistance Program.

(1) Information concerning the Loan ~~Repayment~~Assistance Program shall be:

(4) Loan ~~repayment-award~~assistance recipients must reapply for the program annually.

(5) In addition to the application, each applicant must submit the following:

(a) Documentation that ~~they are~~the applicant is a graduate of qualifying institution. Submitted one time.

(b) Documentation that ~~they hold~~the applicant holds a valid Alabama professional educator certificate endorsed in ~~middle level or secondary math or science or computer science, or a combination of any or all three~~a program identified as having an acute educator shortage. Submitted one time and then again when renewed.

(c) Documentation from the employing public K-12 school district or school system or at an Alabama Public Charter School Commission approved charter school that ~~they~~the applicant taught the previous semester. This documentation may be a letter from either ~~their superintendent's office~~the applicant's superintendent or ~~their~~ supervising principal. Submitted prior to each requested payment.

(d) Documentation that ~~they hold~~the applicant holds a federal student loan. Documentation must include the amount owed. If the award amount is larger than the outstanding loan balance, the award amount shall be reduced to the amount of the loan balance. Submitted prior to each requested payment.

(1) The requirements of this program are contingent upon available funding for the program. If funding is not adequate to cover the cost of all applicants, funds will be distributed based on a first come first serve basis.

(2) Loan ~~repayment~~ assistance awards shall be distributed by the Commission in the following manner:

(a) Loan assistance awards shall be distributed directly to the ~~recipient-teacher~~ eligible applicants in two disbursements during the applicable year:

(i) One disbursement shall be made after January 1, and
~~the~~

(ii) The second disbursement shall be made after June 1.

Each eligible applicant shall provide documentation from the employing public K-12 school or school system as proof of employment for the requested semester.

(3) If the award amount exceeds the loan balance, the award amount shall be reduced to match the loan balance.

~~(7)~~(8) An eligible applicant who receives the base support and continues to satisfy employment criteria shall continue to receive an award for the four-year limit.

(9) An eligible applicant who receives the supplemental support and continues to satisfy employment criteria shall continue to receive an award for the four-year limit.

(10) Any funds appropriated to the program are considered non-reverting.

(11) The Commission shall determine the necessary procedures for awarding loan assistance if the total awards made to eligible applicants exceeds available funding.

300-4-12-.14 Appeal For Loan ~~Repayment~~Assistance Program.

Any ~~person aggrieved by~~individual or institution not satisfied with the actions of the Commission in its administration of ~~this rule~~the program may, ~~by~~ submit a written petition ~~filed with~~to the Commission within thirty (30) days after notice of the action ~~complained of~~. If not satisfied with the response of the Commission to the written petition, the individual or institution may request a rehearing by within twenty (20) days after the response of the Commission is made. The Commission shall schedule the ~~requested~~ rehearing ~~no less than~~within twenty (20) ~~days, nor more than thirty (30) days~~ after receipt of the ~~petition.~~ The aggrieved party rehearing request. The individual or institution may present written and oral evidence supporting ~~its~~the petition and may be represented by counsel, if desired. The decision of the Commission following the rehearing ~~shall be~~is final.

Accountability and Evaluation Plan For Loan Assistance Program.

(1) The Commission shall develop an accountability and evaluation plan for the program that does all of the following:

(a) Identifies the goals, objectives, and expected outputs and outcomes of the program.

(b) Describes the specific activities of the program and how those activities will achieve expected outcomes.

(c) Defines what the expected metrics of success shall be and provides a monitoring plan to regularly assess performance.

(d) Provides an evaluation plan to assess the impact of expected outcomes.

(2) The Commission shall consult with the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation Services on the development of the accountability and evaluation plan.

Motion, Decision Item B:

That the Commission approve the Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-12: Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program.

C. Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-13: (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan



(2) ADULT LEARNER. A person who is 2~~5~~2 years or older returning to college.

(10) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. A person who completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), ~~is in~~ and who is either of the following:

(a) In pursuit of ~~one's~~ his or her first associate or first baccalaureate degree, satisfies the criteria set out in the Act 2023-539 and Act 2026-304, and is found to be eligible by rules adopted by the commission.

(b) In pursuit of his or her first baccalaureate degree following a two-year stop-out period after receiving his or her first associate degree and did not previously receive a grant award, satisfies the criteria set out in the Act 2023-539 and Act 2026-304, and is found to be eligible by rules adopted by the Commission.

1. Age, 252 years or older;

3. All applications which pass the institution's preliminary review for eligibility shall be compared to other appropriate institutional records. Institutional records shall be used to verify the following requirements for each student applicant:

(i) Age, 252 years or older.

(ii) A citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

(iii) A resident of Alabama.

(iv) A graduate of a secondary school or the recognized equivalent of a high school graduate.

(v) Has not attended a postsecondary education institution for at least two (2) years (24 consecutive months) prior to their current enrollment.

(vi) Has not earned ~~an~~his or her first associate or baccalaureate degree at any other institution prior to applying for the (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program or is seeking his or her first baccalaureate following a two-year stop-out period after receiving his or her first associate degree without previously receiving a grant award.

Motion, Decision Item C:

That the Commission approve the Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-13: (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program.

D. Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-15: Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan



300-4-15-.01 Purpose.

The purpose of the Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship is to provide assistance for costs of tuition ~~assistance~~ and ~~other costs~~ mandatory fees to an undergraduate student attending an accredited public ~~or private~~ postsecondary vocational school, technical school, community or junior college, college, or university in the state of Alabama, who is an eligible dependent of a qualifying law enforcement officer of any state, municipal, or county law enforcement department or agency in the State of Alabama.

(4) ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT. An individual who, on the date of applying for the scholarship provided under this article, is:

(a) Not eligible for the police officer's survivors educational assistance provided under Article 5 of this chapter; and

(b) Is one of the following:

1. A natural or adopted child of a qualifying law enforcement officer, who is under 2~~7~~4 years of age, and who has resided in the state for at least the ~~two~~five preceding years; or

2. The current or surviving spouse of a qualifying law enforcement officer who has resided in the state for at least the ~~two~~five preceding years.

(f) If the recipient's eligibility is based on spousal status, eligibility shall end if the marriage to the qualifying law enforcement officer is terminated by a decree of divorce~~—~~or, in the case of a recipient who is a surviving spouse, remarriage.

1. A surviving spouse of a law enforcement officer who did not die in the line of duty will remain eligible unless in the event the recipient remarries.

(8) PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION. An accredited public ~~or private~~ postsecondary vocational school, technical school, community or junior college, college, or university in Alabama that enters into a contract with the Commission to accept reimbursement for a scholarship awarded to an eligible student.

(10) QUALIFYING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: An individual ~~who~~as defined in Section 13A-11-38:

(a) Is or has been certified by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission.

(b) ~~Is~~Who, on or after January 1, 2026, is employed full-time for at least ~~seven~~15 years by a ~~single~~law enforcement agency in the state; or

(c) Who, having been employed full-time for at least 15 years by a law enforcement agency in the state, ~~or at least~~has been separated for no more than 12 continuous0 years ~~on a~~from full-time ~~basis by more than one~~employment as a law enforcement ~~agency in the state.~~

~~(e) If no longer employed in law enforcement or retired, was not~~office due to resignation, retirement, or death, unless the individual was terminated from the most recent final employment as a law enforcement officer pursuant to a disciplinary action.

(11) ~~REQUIRED EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES~~TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES. Costs charged for tuition, and mandatory fees, ~~and books or electronic and digital media required on a~~ that are assessed for all students at the participating institution. The term does not include differential tuition or department-specific or course ~~syllabus.~~-specific fees, or books, equipment, or supplies.

(b) Applicants shall be required to complete the application and attach the appropriate documentation to substantiate eligibility with respect to a qualifying law enforcement officer. Such required documentation must include one of the following:

1. a certified copy of a natural child's birth certificate,
2. the decree of adoption papers showing the parental relationship to a qualifying law enforcement officer for an adopted child, or
3. a certified copy of the marriage certificate to a qualifying law enforcement officer for a spouse.

(c) Applicants shall also provide a copy of a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) submitted to the U.S. Department of Education or documentation from the participating institution that the applicant has completed a FAFSA.

(d) Applicants shall also provide a signed Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release form.

~~(g)~~ (i) The scholarship shall pay ~~the required educational expenses~~ tuition and mandatory fees after any other amounts from public or private scholarships, grants, aid, or gifts awarded by third parties to the eligible dependent for the academic period have been applied ~~up to the cost of attendance.~~

(1) The Commission shall determine the dollar amount of each scholarship award and shall submit a voucher to the State Comptroller. No eligible student shall receive the scholarship at more than one participating institution during any one academic term.

(a) Each eligible student enrolled at full-time status may receive a maximum of ~~\$3,000 at a university or \$1~~\$2,500 ~~at a community college~~ per academic period. Eligible students enrolled at part-time status shall receive a prorated award amount. ~~No~~

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph(a), if the recipient qualifies for a discount on tuition and mandatory fees because the recipients eligibility is based upon the qualifying law enforcement officer's employment by a law enforcement agency that serves a participating postsecondary institution, the amount shall be capped at \$1,500 for each academic period.

(c) The scholarship may be granted to as many dependents of one qualifying law enforcement officer as are eligible ~~student shall receive the scholarship at more than one participating institution during any one academic term~~ and who comply with the scholarship's requirements.

Motion, Decision Item D:

That the Commission approve the Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-15: Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship.

E. Preliminary Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-16: Move On When Ready

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan



(3) The total amount of Move On When Ready funds for each eligible student for the academic year will be split into two equal portions, with one portion distributed to a single eligible institution per academic period. A separate application must be submitted for each academic period of enrollment for every participating student by each participating institution.

~~(a) The parent or guardian of a participating student is responsible for paying any remaining costs owed to the eligible institution after the Move On When Ready funds have been applied for that academic period.~~

(4) The total amount of Move On When Ready funds for each eligible student for the academic year will be split into two equal portions, with one portion distributed to a single eligible institution per academic period. A separate application must be submitted for each academic period of enrollment for every participating student by each participating institution.

~~(a) The parent or guardian of a participating student is responsible for paying any remaining costs owed to the eligible institution after the Move On When Ready funds have been applied for that academic period.~~

Motion, Decision Item E:

That the Commission approve the Preliminary Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-16: Move On When Ready.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

