

PCHE Student Financial Aid Working Group Governor's Scholarship Program Overview

Mark E. French
Director, Student Financial Aid
Office of Higher Education
November 19, 2015

Background And Goals

The Governor's Scholarship Program (GSP) was signed into law in 2013, and codified under Sec. 10a-173 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The program was designed to replace the Capitol Scholarship Program (CSP), Connecticut Aid for Public College Students Program (CAPCS), Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program (CICSG) and the Charter Oak State College Grant Program (COSG).

The goals of the GSP are to:

- Provide state residents with a consistent higher education financial aid program which ensures fair and equitable awards regardless of the type of Connecticut college - public or private - the student attends.
- Encourage students to attend full-time by offering them significantly higher award amounts to do so.
- Guarantee that Connecticut's neediest students, at community colleges, have their tuition, fees and books paid for by the federal Pell Grant or a combination of Pell Grant and GSP funds.
- Reward students for superior academic performance and timely degree completion.
- Provide students who excel in high school with an enhanced GSP award.
- Support the overall state goals of increasing persistence and degree completion of Connecticut's college students.

GSP Student Eligibility

Students are eligible for an award from the GSP if they meet the following requirements:

1. Be a resident of Connecticut.
2. Attend an eligible Connecticut institution of higher education.
3. File the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, as a result, have a valid Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
4. Be enrolled in an undergraduate, degree granting program.
5. Be enrolled as a part-time (6 – 11 credits) student or a full-time (12+ credits) student.
6. Be in good academic standing at their institution of higher education.

Components of The GSP

- **GSP Need-Merit** – This component provides GSP funds directly to eligible students who have an SAT score of 1800 or ACT score of 27 and/or are in the top 20% of their high school class. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible for this award. For the 2014-2015 academic year 2,453 students received need-merit awards.
- **GSP Need-Based** - This component provides GSP funds to institutions in order to make awards to eligible students. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible for this award. For the 2014-2015 academic year 15,783 students received need-based awards.
- **Academic Incentive Award** – This component provides additional GSP funds to students who received a need-based grant in the prior year and finished the prior year with at least 30 completed credits and a minimum GPA within the award cohort's range for the year. Only full-time students are eligible for this award. For the 2014-2015 academic year, 602 students received academic incentive awards.

2015-2016 Annual GSP Award Amounts

<u>4 Year Program Full-Time*</u>	<u>EFC Range</u>	<u>Avg Income</u>	<u>Need Based*</u>	<u>Need Merit</u>
	0.00-6,999	\$37,997	\$3,000	\$5,000
	7,000-8,999	\$81,647	\$2,500	\$4,500
	9,000-10,999	\$90,439	\$2,000	\$4,000
<u>2 Year Program Full-Time*</u>	<u>EFC Range</u>	<u>Avg Income</u>	<u>Need Based*</u>	<u>Need Merit</u>
	0.00-5,198	\$24,144	\$3,000	\$3,500
	5,199-5,999	\$57,174	\$2,500	\$3,000
	6,000-6,499	\$58,636	\$2,000	\$2,500
	6,500-6,999	\$58,799	\$1,500	\$2,000
	7,000-7,999	\$64,026	\$1,000	\$1,500

*For Pell recipients subtract Pell award from tuition + fees + \$1,000 books/supplies. Any positive remaining amount can be awarded in GSP need-based grant up to \$3,000.

	<u>EFC Range</u>	<u>Need Based*</u>	<u>Need Merit</u>
<u>4 Year Program Part-Time 6-8 Credits</u>	0.00-10,999	\$ 650	\$ 800
<u>4 Year Program Part-Time 9-11 Credits</u>	0.00-10,999	\$ 900	\$ 1,000
<u>2 Year Program Part-Time 6-8 Credits</u>	0.00- 7,999	\$ 650	\$ 800
<u>2 Year Program Part-Time 9-11 Credits</u>	0.00- 7,999	\$ 900	\$ 1,000

GSP and Education Commission of the States (ECS)

The Four ECS Principles of Financial Aid Redesign:

1. Financial aid programs should be student centered.
2. Financial aid programs should be goal driven and data informed.
3. Financial aid programs should be timely and flexible.
4. Financial aid programs should be broadly inclusive of all students' educational pathways.

GSP and the ECS Principles

- **Principle 1 - Financial aid programs should be student centered.**

The GSP was designed to provide state residents with a consistent higher education financial aid program which ensures fair and equitable awards regardless of the type of Connecticut college - public or private - the student attends.

- **Principle 2 - Financial aid programs should be goal driven and data informed.**

To be eligible to receive GSP funds, an institution of higher education must submit an annual student data report. This report provides the data which will be necessary to track the effectiveness of the GSP in meeting state goals.

- **Principle 3 - Financial aid programs should be timely and flexible.**

The GSP was designed to meet the higher education goals of the State of Connecticut in the 21st century, replacing the CICSG, CAPCS and CSP which were designed to meet goals which were relevant more than 30 years ago. Additionally, the GSP allows for program flexibility to adjust for changing trends in the future.

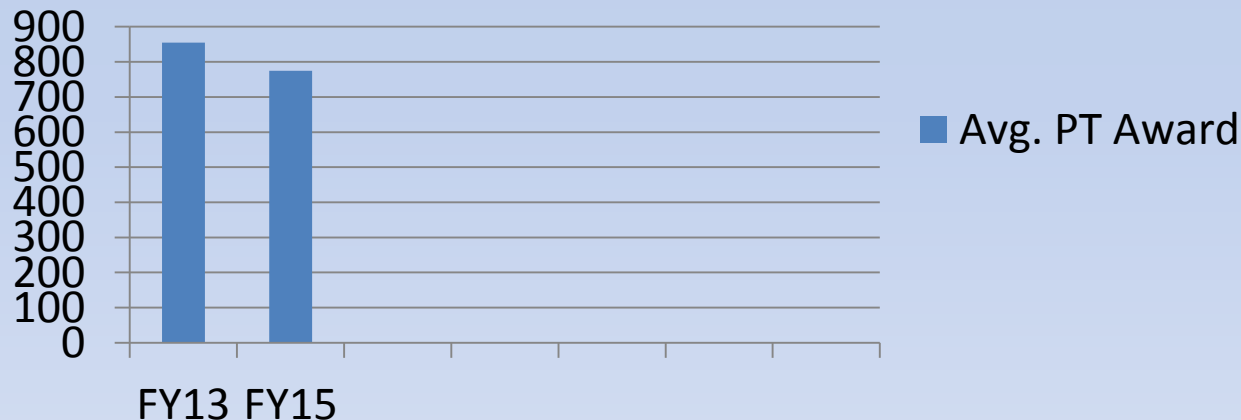
- **Principle 4 - Financial aid programs should be broadly inclusive of all students' educational pathways.**

The inherent flexibility designed into the GSP allows the state to be more responsive to meeting new goals, such as possibly the funding of students in limited workforce defined certification programs.

Part-Time Students

- In 2012-2013, the last full year of the CAPCS program, the Community Colleges reported the following:

1. The average award for students attending part-time under the CAPCS program in the fall and spring was \$855. The average part-time award for the fall and spring of 2014-2015 under GSP is \$775.



2. They awarded \$2.7 million in CAPCS funds to 2,274 students with EFC's **above** their cost of tuition, fees and \$1,000 for books. This is no longer allowed under the GSP.
3. 12,679 students with EFC's between \$0 and \$1,000 received **NO** CAPCS funds.

CICSG Program

- In 2012-2013, the last full year of the CICSG program, the private colleges and universities reported the following:
 1. 257 students with EFC's above \$20,000 (avg. income \$128,618) were awarded \$862,317 in CICSG funds. This is no longer allowed under the GSP.
 2. Of the above number, 126 students who had family incomes over \$150,000 (avg. income \$174,870) were awarded \$420,658 in CICSG funds.
 3. 2,914 students with EFC's of \$0 received **NO** CICSG funds.

State Appropriations for Financial Aid

