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23 ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE                      CH. XIX, SEC. 2762  
PAUL DOUGLAS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP (PDTS) PROGRAM

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TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PART 2762  
PAUL DOUGLAS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP (PDTS) PROGRAM

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**AUTHORITY:** Implementing and authorized by Section 521 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C.A. 1111 et seq.), and Section 20(b) and (f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(b) and (f)].

**SOURCE:** Emergency Rule adopted at 10 Ill. Reg. 12690, effective July 18, 1986, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired December 14, 1986; adopted at 11 Ill. Reg. 3159, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 12 Ill. Reg. 11559, effective July 1, 1988; amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 8650, effective July 1, 1989; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1762 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2762 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17865; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11313, effective July 1, 1992; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10611, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10333, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8378, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9238, effective July 1, 1996; Old Part repealed and New Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11200, effective July 18, 1997.

**Section 2762.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) The Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program enables and encourages outstanding high school graduates to pursue teaching careers at the pre-school, elementary or secondary school level by providing financial assistance in the form of a scholarship.
- b) Federal regulations govern the responsibilities of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), institutions and recipients. This Part implements ISAC's discretionary authority as the program administrator for the State of Illinois. (See: 34 CFR 653.)
- c) Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

**Section 2762.20 Applicant Eligibility**

- a) A qualified applicant shall be:
  - 1) a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
  - 2) a resident of Illinois;
  - 3) a high school graduate, its equivalent, or a student scheduled to graduate from high school by the end of the secondary school year in which the award is made, who:
    - A) graduated or will graduate in the top ten percent of his/her graduating class; or
    - B) received a General Educational Development (GED) test score recognized by the General Educational Development Testing Service as the equivalent to ranking in the top ten percent of the United States high school graduates; and
  - 4) enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, as an undergraduate or graduate student seeking initial certification in a Teacher Education Program.
    - A) The applicant must:
      - i) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full-time basis;
      - ii) be enrolled in the last academic term before graduation or engaged in student teaching if enrolled less than full-time; and
      - iii) maintain satisfactory progress toward a degree, or, if the student already has a degree, toward teacher certification, in accordance with the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy.
    - B) Enrollment must be in a postsecondary institution that is approved by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in federal student assistance programs. (See, e.g., 34 CFR 600.10, 600.20, 668.12.)

**Section 2762.30 Program Procedures**

- a) Applicants will be notified whether they are qualified applicants. A non-qualified applicant may appeal in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.70, Appeal Procedures.
- b) Recipients shall be selected from among the qualified applicants on the basis of the following criteria:
  - 1) Postsecondary Academic Level. Awards will be made first to renewal applicants, then to all graduate students and seniors, then to all juniors, then to all sophomores, and then to all freshmen.
  - 2) Special Consideration. If there are insufficient funds to award scholarships to all qualified applicants, ISAC shall give special consideration to qualified applicants who are within the same academic level and who:
    - A) intend to teach or provide related services to students with disabilities;
    - B) intend to teach limited English proficient students;
    - C) intend to teach preschool age children;
    - D) intend to teach in schools servicing inner city or rural or geographically isolated areas;
    - E) intend to teach in curricular areas or geographic areas where there are demonstrated shortages of qualified teachers; or
    - F) are from disadvantaged backgrounds, including students from low-income families; racial and ethnic minorities; individuals with disabilities; and students underrepresented in the teaching profession or in the curricular areas in which they are preparing to teach.
  - 3) Shortage of Teachers. If there are insufficient funds to award scholarships to all qualified applicants within a given academic level who are entitled to special consideration, awards will be made first to all applicants enrolled in an academic discipline in which Illinois has a shortage of teachers, as determined annually by the Illinois State Board of Education. (See: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 54.Subpart D.) Funds will next be awarded to applicants at the same academic level in non-shortage disciplines.

- 4) The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) derived from Federal Methodology. If funds are insufficient to make awards to all applicants who are entitled to special consideration, to all applicants in shortage disciplines or to all applicants in non-shortage disciplines, within an academic level, applicants will be ranked in order of the applicant's EFC, from lowest to highest. (See: Section 2762.40(b); Title IV, Part F of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C.A. 1087kk).) Awards will be made within the relevant group in order of increasing EFC. Those applicants who did not apply for federal student financial aid, and therefore do not have an EFC, are eligible to receive this scholarship but will be ranked last in their relevant group.
- c) An applicant shall receive a scholarship renewal provided s/he continues to meet the requirements of Section 2762.20, Applicant Eligibility. No recipient may receive more than eight semesters/twelve quarters of scholarship assistance. A recipient shall not receive a scholarship renewal if s/he remains at the same academic level for more than two years.
- d) The total number of recipients selected is contingent upon the available funds and the number of scholarship renewals. All scholarships and scholarship renewals are contingent upon sufficient appropriation.
- e) ISAC applications for the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program are available for distribution to students from: approved high schools in Illinois; offices of Congressional Representatives from the State of Illinois; offices of ISAC in Springfield, Chicago, and Deerfield; and postsecondary institutions throughout Illinois.
- f) A completed application must be received in ISAC's Deerfield office on or before August 1 preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is being requested in order to receive priority consideration for an award.
  - 1) All applicants who had not previously been designated as recipients should also apply for federal student financial aid to determine EFC for the purpose of determining their rank within their relevant group. (See: 20 U.S.C.A. 1070a.)
  - 2) First-time applicants must also provide their postsecondary institution a copy of their high school transcripts, any other documentation which verifies rank in class upon high school graduation, or documentation showing their GED test scores. The institution shall certify to ISAC whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria listed in Section 2762.20, Applicant Eligibility.

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- g) A congratulatory letter shall be sent to each qualified applicant who is selected as a recipient. A listing of recipients shall be made available to institutions, members of Congress, and to the media.
- h) Renewal applications are mailed annually to recipients and must be submitted to ISAC on or before August 1 preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is being requested in order to receive priority consideration for an award.
- i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any academic year, the recipient must sign a Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note that is submitted to ISAC.
  - 1) The Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note shall require the recipient to either:
    - A) fulfill the teaching requirements within ten years after completing the postsecondary education degree program for which the scholarship was awarded, or
    - B) repay all or part of the scholarship, plus interest, as provided by federal regulations. (See: 34 CFR 653.62(c)(1).) The teaching requirement is prorated based upon whether the student received the scholarship for a semester or quarter rather than a full academic year.
  - 2) The Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note shall include:
    - A) a stipulation that:
      - i) the recipient teach on a full-time basis for a period of not less than two years, for each year of assistance received, in a public or private nonprofit preschool, elementary, or secondary school, or
      - ii) the recipient teach, on a full-time basis, children with disabilities or children with limited English proficiency in a private non-profit school, and
    - B) a stipulation that teaching time shall be reduced to one-half if performed in a geographic area or an academic discipline certified as a "teacher shortage area" by the U.S. Secretary of Education, and

- C) a further stipulation that the recipient agrees to provide ISAC with evidence of compliance with program requirements (e.g., responses to annual follow-up questionnaires, etc.).
- j) A recipient will be entitled to defer payments due, as outlined in subsection (i)(1)(B) of this Section, during any period in which the recipient meets the conditions outlined in Section 528 of the Higher Education Act, as amended, or applicable federal regulations (see: 34 CFR 653.62(g)).
- k) A recipient shall be excused from repayment, for any scholarship assistance received under this Part, if the recipient becomes permanently totally disabled as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician or if his or her representative provides ISAC with a death certificate or other evidence that the recipient has died.

#### **Section 2762.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) Scholarship Amount
  - 1) In accordance with this subsection (a), the recipient's postsecondary institution shall compute the amount of the scholarship and shall submit a request form.
  - 2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (a), scholarships shall be in the amount of \$5,000 if the student is enrolled for the full academic year. The maximum scholarship for one semester is \$2,500; the maximum scholarship for one quarter is \$1,666.67.
  - 3) If a Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship, when added to the amount the applicant is to receive for the same academic year under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C.A. 1070 11 et seq.), would exceed the applicant's cost of attendance, as defined at Section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C.A. 108711), the institution shall take the receipt of the scholarship into account in determining the student's eligibility for other federal financial aid programs. A Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship shall not be reduced because of the receipt of other federal student assistance.
  - 4) In any academic year in which the recipient accepts financial assistance through the Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program (see: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2765), DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarship Program (see: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2764), or the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (see: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2763), the recipient shall not

be eligible for scholarship assistance under this Part.

- 5) A recipient may receive grant assistance under the Monetary Award Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735) only up to the amount by which the recipient's cost of attendance exceeds the amount of the scholarship.
- b) Scholarship funds are applicable towards two semesters/three quarters of full-time study within an academic year. Upon receipt of scholarship funds, the institution shall verify that the recipient continues to be enrolled. The institution may then credit scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the scholarship funds shall be released to the recipient. If the recipient withdraws from enrollment, the institution shall return the amount of the scholarship to ISAC for the semester(s) or quarter(s) not attended.
- c) Out-of-state institutions that are eligible to participate in Title IV federal student financial aid programs need not execute a Program Participation Agreement with ISAC to receive funds on behalf of recipients.