



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Council on Postsecondary Education
OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER
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Enclosure 8B.
September 16, 2015

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To: Council on Postsecondary Education

From: Commissioner Jim Purcell, Ed.D.

Date: September 2, 2015

Subject: Approval of Postsecondary Student Financial
Assistance Policy

As was discussed at the August 13, 2015 Council meeting, the existing Rhode Island State Grant program was replaced with a new program that will support and reinforce the affordable, local and accessible pathways to higher education while sending a clear message of encouragement to needy RI students.

Participating institutions have the flexibility to design a program to fit their unique student populations. The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner will evaluate and review institutional proposals; collect and analyze information and report the status of the program on an annual basis.

The attached policy establishes the authority of the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education to develop the new grant program and outlines the goals and objectives of the program.

Motion:

That the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the policy on Postsecondary Student Financial Assistance program.

RHODE ISLAND POSTSECONDARY STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

Council on Postsecondary Education State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

**Adopted: 09/16/2015
(c)**

Legal Citation: RIGL §16-56-6 (a), (b),

Amended:

Pursuant to RIGL §16-56-6 (a), (b), (c), the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner assumed responsibility for Postsecondary Student Financial Assistance program. The duties pertaining to the new grant and scholarship program include the development of a plan to allocate need based scholarship and grant funds to eligible Rhode Island public and independent non-profit institutions. The focus of the new program is to assist needy Rhode Island students attending Rhode Island public and independent non-profit institutions. The goal of the program is to increase access, retention and completion of a higher education credential.

Participating institutions must submit a plan and supporting data that will effectively maximize the use of funds to meet the goal of assisting needy Rhode Island students attending Rhode Island public and independent non-profit postsecondary institutions.

Student and institutional eligibility requirements for participation in the program are determined by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.
