



# State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board

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## **TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (TES)**

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Beginning in 2015, Technical Excellence Scholarships were awarded to Wisconsin high school seniors who have the highest demonstrated level of proficiency in technical education subjects. The number of scholarships each high school is eligible for is based on total student enrollment.

The scholarships are only for use at a Wisconsin Technical College within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) located within the state. The value of the scholarship is up to \$2,250 per year, to be applied towards tuition. Half of the scholarship is funded by the state and the institution matches the other half.

Eligibility for the TES scholarship does not exceed 6 semesters, or a total of three years. Semesters are defined as fall or spring semesters, not summer sessions or other shorter sessions.

In order to receive a TES scholarship, a student must be enrolled on a full-time basis by September 30th of the academic year following the academic year in which he or she was designated as a scholar, at a participating Wisconsin Technical College in the state. (Recipients of TES scholarships may NOT wait to claim the scholarship for one year after high school graduation, but after completing one year a student may take up to one year (gap year) off from school and reclaim the scholarship upon their return to enrollment.

No student may receive both a TES scholarship and an Academic Excellence Scholarship (AES), an existing program under HEAB that was a model for the TES program.

Nominees to the program are to be selected by each school board of a school district operating one or more high schools, and each governing body of a private high school or tribal high school. (For schools with enrollments under 80, the process contains special steps; see page 5 of this memo.)

The enabling legislation on the TES program ([2013 Wisconsin Act 60](#)) requires the school districts to designate scholars for the program by February 25 of each year, beginning in 2015. As with AES, nominations can be submitted to HEAB shortly after selection by the districts.

TES scholarships are allocated to high schools under the same formula used for the Academic Excellence Scholarship (AES); schools awarding AES scholarships may award the same number of TES scholarships.

TES program is provided in statute with a formula designating how many scholarships are available in each high school. The formula is based on student enrollment in the high school and is identical to the formula provided in current law for AES.

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TES scholarship allotment by high school population (total enrollment) is as follows:

<u>HS enrollment</u>	<u>Number of AES scholarships per school</u>
1-89	10 scholarships statewide among all HS with enrollments below 80
90-499	1
500-999	2
1000-1499	3
1500-1999	4
2000-2499	5

Like AES, large schools and small schools will have separate processes for designating scholars. Additional detail about the TES process for under-80 schools is provided later in this memo.

### **1. Eligibility criteria for candidates:**

Like most financial aid programs, the TES program requires a scholarship recipient be a resident of Wisconsin according to the residency standards of s. 36.27, Wis Stats. A recipient must be a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence by the Federal Immigration and Naturalization Service. A scholarship recipient is also required to have registered with Selective Service.

In addition, an eligible candidate for a TES scholarship is a high school senior meeting the following criteria.

- A. In order to be eligible for nomination to a TES scholarship, a student must exhibit interest in and planning for a technical career.
  - A student's school counselor or principal must affirm that the student has post-secondary plans related to a career in technical education. (This affirmation will be made in the nomination form for TES.)
  - A student must have an academic and career plan leading to a career in technical education. (This requirement refers to the academic and career plans required under s.115.28 (59), instituted in the 2013-15 biennial state budget; see 2013 Wisconsin Act 20.)
- B. In addition, in order to be eligible for a TES scholarship, a student must also have completed at least one of the following eight eligibility items. Students awarded a TES scholarship must have:
  - i. Be a CTE Concentrator, which is a high school student who has completed at least three (3) high school CTE courses (career and technical education courses) in program area(s) leading to a degree or diploma in the student's chosen pathway.
    - A student may be enrolled in (rather than have completed) the third course at the time of their nomination for TES.

- The definition of “CTE course” is to be that definition approved by the board of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, P.L. 190-270 “Perkins IV”, which is: a secondary-level course offered through the DPI-recognized program areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, Business and Information Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science Education, Health Science Education, Marketing Education, or Technology and Engineering Education; such courses must be taught by a CTE instructor licensed for that specific discipline, except that courses in Health Science Education may also be taught by a health education instructor and/or a science licensed instructor.
- ii. Participated in a Youth Apprenticeship Program under the supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) (see [https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/youthapprenticeship/program\\_info.htm](https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/youthapprenticeship/program_info.htm))
- iii. Participated in a Technical High School Diploma program as certified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) (see [http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte\\_tehsd](http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_tehsd))
- iv. Participated in a Career and Technical Training pathway as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) (see [http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte\\_clustersandpaths](http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_clustersandpaths))
- v. Participated in a Skills Standards Program offered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) (see [http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte\\_cteskills](http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_cteskills))
- vi. Completed (or be on track to complete) an industry-recognized certification program approved under Wis. Stats. 115.367 (2). (This requirement is created under [2013 Wisconsin Act 59](#)).
- vii. Participated in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) in Wisconsin: DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, or SkillsUSA (see [http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte\\_ctso](http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_ctso))
- viii. Completed a technical training program for high school students if the program is offered by a UW System school, a Wisconsin Technical College System school, a tribal college in Wisconsin, or a private nonprofit college or university located in Wisconsin. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - Medical College of Wisconsin Summer Enrichment Programs
  - UW-Madison’s Summer Science Institute at WIScience
  - Marquette University’s K-12 Engineering Academies
  - MSOE summer programs for K-12 students

The program must be offered BY a Wisconsin colleges or university; programs held at these campuses but offered by others are not eligible. (Such programs are usually of shorter duration.)

The TES nomination form will ask schools to list the eligibility categories met by a student being nominated.

The TES nomination form will require schools to indicate the number of credit hours (if any) earned by a student in connection with programs that are not school coursework.

## **2. Ranking of eligible candidates:**

Act 60 requires that nomination for TES scholarships be made by school districts for the student (or students) who has (who have) the highest level of proficiency in technical education subjects.

This standard seems to indicate a need for eligible students to be ranked for technical proficiency, in order to create as clear and uniform a standard as possible for determining which student has the highest proficiency. "Ranked" is conceived by HEAB to mean a clear, ordinal, "first-second-third" system whenever possible.

The TES nomination form will ask whether the district selected students for their TES rankings based on their own ranking system, or based upon the ranking system prepared by HEAB.

### **a. HEAB-recommended ranking system for TES-eligible students**

Act 60 calls for schools to create a ranking system to measure student qualification for the TES scholarship.

HEAB has created a point system to rank eligible candidates within each high school, and recommends this system to school districts. Districts choosing to use this recommended system do not have to seek approval for the ranking system from HEAB.

HEAB's recommended ranking system consists of ranking eligible students according to a point system reflective of course work and technical education experience. Under the recommended point system:

- One point is given to a student for each credit earned in high school in CTE courses, as defined above.
- One point is given to a student for each year of activity in a Career and Technical Student Organization in Wisconsin ([http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte\\_ctso](http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_ctso)) (For activity in multiple CTSOs, one point is to be given for each year of participation in each of the six CTSOs.) Districts are to determine the points awarded.
- For the purpose of assigning a ranking among eligible candidates, credit hours in process at the time of nomination should be counted toward the number of credits the student has earned.

When students emerge from the point system with tied scores, CTE grades become the tie-breaker. Because some students may have the same credit-hours at the time of nomination, the HEAB-recommended ranking system then assigns rankings to "tied" students based on the grade point earned by eligible students in CTE courses (as defined above). The grades used for this purpose are only those grades earned in CTE courses, not a student's overall grade point.

#### b.School-District-created ranking system for TES-eligible students

School districts may select an alternative system for ranking their TES-eligible students. School districts are required under Act 60 to have such ranking systems approved by their school boards and then to submit the system to HEAB for its approval.

Districts seeking approval of their own ranking systems may submit systems to HEAB for approval not later than February 1 each academic year.

TES nominations are due to HEAB on or before March 23 each academic year.

Because of the timeframe, HEAB encourages school districts considering creation of their own ranking systems, to work with HEAB staff as they consider and develop a ranking system. HEAB wants to prevent surprises and disappointments as districts proceed in the new TES program with plans to use their own ranking systems.

### **3.Naming and Selection of Alternates**

On the TES nomination form, HEAB will ask schools to submit the names of as many alternates, as the school will award scholarships under the TES allocation formula.

For under-80 schools, schools nominating one student will also be asked to name one alternate.

### **4.Responsibilities of School Districts**

The TES program will ask school districts to approve the same three policies that school districts are currently asked to approve for the AES program. These policies need only be approved at the school district level; these do not need HEAB approval and do not need to be filed with HEAB.

The three policy items HEAB will ask districts to approve for TES are:

1. Each school board of the school district, or the governing body of a private high school, shall determine, and have in writing, a policy establishing how long a student must have attended that high school to compete for the scholarship, how the student acquires senior status, and when the student is eligible to compete for the scholarship.
2. Each school board of the school district, or the governing body of a private high school, shall determine, and have in writing, a policy defining the grading system used in that high school, including whether it is weighted or unweighted, which subjects are included in the GPA on the official high school transcript, how pass-fail grades are incorporated into the GPA, how grades from study abroad or from alternative or home schools are incorporated into the GPA, and how to incorporate grades earned in another country by students with permanent resident status.
3. The faculty of each school shall determine, and have in writing, a policy that describes the tie breaking procedures and criteria used to determine the scholars and alternates and to put them in rank order.

Again, these policies need only be approved at the school district level; these do not need HEAB approval and do not need to be filed with HEAB. On these three points, HEAB encourages districts to use policies for TES that are similar or identical to policies already in use for AES.

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For schools using the HEAB-recommended ranking system to measure student qualification, that system awards points to a student for activity in a Career and Technical Student Organization in Wisconsin ([http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte\\_ctso](http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_ctso)) (For activity in multiple CTSOs, one point is to be given for each year of participation in each of the six CTSOs.) Districts are to determine the points awarded, and are also advised to have a policy on this matter in writing and available for reference. This need not be approved by HEAB.

### **5. Under-80 Schools**

HEAB will ask for some of same the same information from under-80 schools for TES, as we currently ask for AES. The eligibility criteria for students applies to students at under-80 schools. HEAB will ask under-80 schools to use the HEAB-recommended ranking system to evaluate and rank students for the scholarship.

Under-80 schools are asked to submit the name of the senior with the highest point score on HEAB's recommended ranking system, as well as the GPA of that student in CTE coursework. As with AES, the GPA used for TES shall be based on a 4.000 grade point scale with the grade of "A" equaling 4.000. Grades shall be unweighted for this GPA and shall be expressed on a 4.000 scale.

Under-80 schools shall also submit (if possible) the student's highest score and percentile ranking earned on the American College Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, or other test required by the Wisconsin institution in which the student intends to enroll.

HEAB wishes to state that a student is not required to have an ACT score or other standardized test score in order to be nominated by an under-80 school. However, HEAB seeks to collect these scores from under-80 nominees when available, because they provide a point of consideration for HEAB to review when it selects recipients from among the nominees.

In addition, HEAB has created a form by which students may request consideration for a TES scholarship. This form is voluntary for student and for OVER-80 schools. HEAB will require that a copy of the "Request for Consideration" form for TES be filled out and submitted by the student to the school as part of the nomination.

As with AES, for TES the HEAB Secretary shall review nominations and designate 10 students from all under-80 schools statewide; of these, the 10 students with the highest GPAs for CTE courses, are to be designated recipients of the scholarship. HEAB will apply current AES policies to TES for ranking and tie-breaking.

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Information about TES is also available at [www.heab.wisconsin.gov](http://www.heab.wisconsin.gov)

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