

120B.08 EARLY GRADUATION ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Participation.** A student who qualifies for early graduation under section 120B.07 is eligible to participate in the early graduation achievement scholarship program.

Subd. 2. **Scholarship amounts.** A student who participates in the early graduation achievement scholarship program is eligible for a scholarship of \$2,500 if the student qualifies for graduation one semester or two trimesters early, \$5,000 if the student qualifies for graduation two semesters or three or four trimesters early, or \$7,500 if the student qualifies for graduation three or more semesters or five or more trimesters early.

Subd. 3. **Scholarship uses.** An early graduation achievement scholarship may be used at any accredited institution of higher education.

Subd. 4. **Application.** A qualifying student may apply to the commissioner of education for an early graduation achievement scholarship. The application must be in the form and manner specified by the commissioner. Upon verification of the qualifying student's course completion necessary for graduation, the department must issue the student a certificate showing the student's scholarship amount.

Subd. 5. **Enrollment verification.** A student who qualifies under this section and enrolls in an accredited higher education institution must submit a form to the commissioner verifying the student's enrollment in the higher education institution and the tuition charges for that semester. Within 15 days of receipt of a student's enrollment and tuition verification form, the commissioner must issue a scholarship check to the student in the lesser of the tuition amount for that semester or the maximum amount of the student's early graduation achievement scholarship. A student may continue to submit enrollment verification forms to the commissioner until the student has used the full amount of the student's graduation achievement scholarship.

Subd. 6. **General education money transferred.** The commissioner must transfer the amounts necessary to fund the early graduation achievement scholarships from the general education aid appropriation for that year.

History: *1Sp2011 c 11 art 1 s 5*