

**Montana University System  
Regents Task Force on the High School Honor Scholarship**

**Executive Summary**

The Board of Regents created the High School Honor Scholarship over 30 years ago (policy 501.1). During that time, there have been considerable changes in both the academic and economic world.

In light of this, in August of 2001, Commissioner of Higher Education, Richard Crofts appointed a Task Force to review the High School Honor Scholarship, herein after referred to as the Program, with a three-fold charge:

- to review the effectiveness of the Program,
- to determine if the Program was meeting the intent of the Board of Regents, and
- to propose revisions to the Program based upon clearly articulated goals and objectives.

This charge is compatible with the Board of Regents' strategic plan, (dated October 19, 2001 –Section B).

*“To make a high quality, affordable higher education experience available to all qualified citizens who wish to further their education and training.*

1. *To identify or seek creative funding alternatives that will expand public and private resources.*
2. *To make sure that every academically qualified individual has an opportunity to receive the benefits of higher education without financial or social barriers.*
  - A. *Determine scholarship needs for Montana citizens and develop funds to assist needy students.*
  - B. *Increase the amount of funding available for merit-based aid.”*

Membership on the Task Force included financial aid officers at institutions in the Montana University System, high school counselors, a recipient of the High School Honor Scholarship currently a student at Montana State University and staff members from Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. The Task Force met several times throughout the fall and winter of 2001-2002. Data was drawn from various sources with an emphasis on information related to the Scholarship usage, financial aid needed to remain in college, recipients' retention rate within the Montana University System and comparable programs in other states.

The Task Force believes the recommended changes will enhance the Program, making it more desirable to Montana's top students who, over the past few years, have increasingly relinquished the scholarship to attend comparable institutions both in state and out-of-state.

The Task Force makes the following recommendation:

- The name of the High School Honor Scholarship be changed to Montana University System Achievement Award, and
- be awarded as a four-year renewable scholarship
- with an annual cash award of \$3,500.00 for students attending a campus of the Montana University System or \$1,500.00 for students attending Dawson, Miles or Flathead Valley community college.
- That the prospective recipient is a graduate of an accredited high school of the state, and
- has been enrolled in an accredited high school for at least three years prior to graduation,
- ranks within the highest one-fourth of his or her class in scholarship,
- has a minimum grade point average of 3.5 or higher,
- has met college preparatory requirements, and
- is the highest in scholarship of those members of the graduating class desiring to attend a campus of the Montana University System or Dawson, Miles or Flathead Valley community college.
- The cumulative GPA used to create the high school class-ranking list should be based on each student's standing at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester.

**Background**

Over 30 years ago, the Board of Regents (the Board) created the High School Honor Scholarship program. It is the Task Force's understanding that the Program was designed to attract Montana high school students graduating in the top percentile of their class to attend the Montana University System. In 1998, Dawson, Miles and Flathead Valley community colleges began participating in the Program. The Program is administered by the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program.

## Charge

In August of 2001, the Commissioner of Higher Education, Richard Crofts, created a High School Honor Scholarship Task Force to review the High School Honor Scholarship program, hereinafter referred to as the Program.

The charge for the Task Force was three-fold:

- to review the effectiveness of the Program,
- to determine if the Program was meeting the intent of the Board of Regents, and
- to propose revisions to the Program based upon clearly articulated goals and objectives.

This charge is compatible with the Board of Regents' strategic plan, (dated October 19, 2001 –Section B). *“To make a high quality, affordable higher education experience available to all qualified citizens who wish to further their education and training.*

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  - B. *Increase the amount of funding available for merit-based aid.”*

## Members of the Tack Force

Bruce Raw, Counselor, Skyview High School - Billings

Jean Braun, Counselor, Capital High School - Helena

Jolene Myers, Financial Aid & Admissions Director, Dawson Community College

Devney Black, Student & HSHS Recipient, Montana State University – Bozeman

Terri Gruba, Financial Aid Officer & Scholarship Administrator, University of Montana - Missoula

President- Montana Association of Financial Aid Administrators

Susan Weinreis, Financial Aid Officer, Montana State University – Billings

Ted Plaggemeyer, Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Helena College of Technology

Arlene Hannawalt, Director, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Mary Taylor, Assistant to the Director, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Sally Speer, Scholarship Coordinator, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Jamie Dushin, Scholarship Specialist, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

## Issues Identified

The Task Force was asked to assess the current Program and to provide revisions to it, based upon clearly articulated goals and objectives. To accomplish this, issues were identified by interviewing program participants and recipients, reviewing data collected by the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program and analyzing data collected by Montana State University-Billings and The University of Montana.

### The major issues identified:

- *Each year an increasing number of students in the highest percentile of their graduating class relinquish the scholarship.*
- *The scholarship covers only the first two semesters and is non renewable. Many of the high-ranking students are accepting scholarships and other financial aid packages from non-eligible institutions.*
- *Twenty-five percent (25%) of the students who graduate from a Montana high school have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better. The academic requirement for a renewable scholarship should reflect higher standards, than the minimum 3.0 GPA currently required.*
- *Students and parents do not understand the exact costs covered by the scholarship and that it is a fee waiver, not a cash award. Many are upset when they arrive on campus and discover they have to pay additional fees.*
- *Many students do not realize that the Board of Regents awards the scholarship; they believe it is awarded by their high school.*
- *High schools when awarding the scholarship, may call it by various names rather than the High School Honor Scholarship. Often the student and family believe the student has been awarded more than one scholarship.*

- Some students and their parents do not understand why the scholarship cannot be used at one of the private colleges in state or other in-state post-secondary educational institutions.
- Annually, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program receives inquiries from high school counselors, principals, parents and students regarding the criteria used to break a tie between two or more qualifying students.

### **Additional Data Collected**

To address the issues stated above, the Task Force determined more information was needed on the students eligible to receive the scholarship, the types of scholarships other states are providing and the way students who remain in college finance their education. Data was collected by the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, The University of Montana, Montana State University-Billings, Capital High School - Helena and Skyview High School- Billings.

Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program mailed a survey (attachment A) to the students eligible for the High School Honor Scholarship in academic years 1997 to 2001. The total number mailed was 2340, targeting three segments: students who accepted the scholarship and enrolled in one of the eligible units, students who accepted the scholarship but did not enroll, and students who relinquished the scholarship. It is anticipated that the findings of the survey will be available for the Board of Regents' May meeting.

### **Task Force Recommendations**

#### **Scholarship Name and Awarding Entity**

The Task Force identified confusion over the scholarship name, the awarding entity, and the terms -scholarship and fee waiver, as an issue for recipients, their parents, the high schools and the colleges. It was concluded that the name, itself, High School Honor Scholarship leads to much of this confusion.

It is natural for students and their families to believe the high school provides the scholarship, not only due to the name, but generally the high school administrator is the one who awards and presents it to the student. In some instances, the high school renames the scholarship to "valedictorian scholarship". The college campuses refer to it as the High School Honors Fee Waiver.

In 1999, to help clarify this issue, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program initiated the High School Honor Scholarship Reception, which is held annually in the spring. The Commissioner of Higher Education and the Governor, when available, personally greet each of the recipients. In addition, a letter is sent to each student from the Commissioner of Higher Education, congratulating him or her on the award. These activities have made it clearer that the Board of Regents provides the scholarship. However, it has also, in some cases, added to the confusion. Many of the students believe the High School Honor Scholarship is being awarded in addition to the one provided by their high school.

**Recommendation:** The Task Force recommends that the name of the scholarship be changed to the *Montana University System Achievement Award*. By using Montana University System in the name it clearly identifies that the award is from the Board of Regents for attendance at a unit of the university system; or, at Flathead Valley, Dawson or Miles Community Colleges.

The Task Force believes that most people associate the word scholarship with a cash award. Because the current scholarship is a fee wavier and not a cash award, replacing the word "scholarship" with "award" will be easier to explain to recipients, if it continues to be a fee waiver.

#### **Recipient Eligibility Criteria**

Currently, Montana students ranking in the highest one-fourth of their graduating class with a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) are awarded the scholarship. The number of scholarships awarded is based on one for every 25 students, or major fraction thereof, in each high school's total graduating class. For example, a high school with 100 graduates is allocated 4 scholarships. If the number is a fraction thereof, such as 114, the school is allocated 5 scholarships. High schools with fewer than 25 graduating students are awarded one scholarship.

Recipients, not intending to enroll in one of the units of the Montana University System or one of the three state community colleges, may relinquish the scholarship. It is then awarded to the next eligible student on their high school ranking list. Each high school creates its ranking list utilizing the cumulative GPA at the end of their 7<sup>th</sup>

semester, with a 4.0 GPA at the top. For students graduating at the end of the junior year, the 5<sup>th</sup> semester cumulative GPA is used to place him or her in the ranking.

The Task Force reviewed the quality of the students receiving the scholarship to determine if they are the ones with the highest academic accomplishments. From the information gathered during the past 5 years, over 50% of the high school graduating students have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Approximately 24% of the students graduating from high school have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

**Recommendation:** The Program was created by the Board of Regents to award students who have demonstrated high academic achievement. The Task Force recommends that the minimum cumulative high school GPA for eligibility for the award be raised from 3.0 to 3.5. In addition, the Task Force recommends that the cumulative GPA at the end of the students' 6th semester be used to generate the ranking list for each high school.

### ***High Percentage of Initial Relinquishments***

In state fiscal year 2001, 491 of the students who initially received the scholarship, relinquished it. Of the 486 students who accepted the scholarship, although many were not the top students, most ranked within the top 10% of their graduating class. (See Attachment A) In addition, up to 10% of those students who accepted the scholarship did not actually enroll in one of the units of the Montana University System or the three state community colleges.

A review of the data indicates that of the students relinquishing the scholarship in award year 2001, 26.28% attended comparable public colleges and universities that are not part of the Montana University System. The majority are in the states of Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, Minnesota, Arizona, California and Oregon. Many of the students (57.67% in award year 2001) elected to attend private colleges, such as Gonzaga University and Carroll College. Comments from students to Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program and high school counselors suggest that most of the students relinquishing the scholarship are receiving better scholarships from the other colleges.

**Recommendation:** Based on preliminary information the Task Force has received, it is recommending that the award be renewable up to three years, in addition to the initial year, making it a four-year award. It is expected that by doing this, many of the students who relinquish the award would accept it and attend college at one of the eligible campuses because a renewable award would be more desirable.

### ***Value of the Award***

Each year some of the parents and students are frustrated or angry when they register for college and discover the scholarship does not cover mandatory fees or class fees. The financial aid officers at the campuses and staff at Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program receive inquiries from the recipients and their families wanting an explanation about the fees or costs of registration covered by the scholarship, and the exact dollar amount the scholarship should be. Information provided to the recipients clearly defines what fees are and are not covered, but most families either do not read the material or are not aware of the additional mandatory fees and class fees that are charged by the different campuses.

**Recommendation:** The Task Force recommends that the scholarship be for a specific amount instead of the generic value of tuition and registration fee. By designating a specific amount for the scholarship it would resolve the issue of what educational costs are covered; and, reduce the dissatisfaction heard from recipients and their families when the student receives the first bill identifying the costs that are not covered; and, reduce relinquishments because a specific amount would be more desirable than a fee waiver.

### ***Cost Projections***

The projections below assume a \$3,500 value on the award and that the award is renewable for three years. The Task Force used the retention rates of the current scholarship recipients at The University of Montana and Montana State University-Billings in our projections. The recommended eligibility changes in the award were also taken into account in the computations.

**Montana University System Achievement Awards  
Projections for Academic Years 2005 through 2008 with an Annual Award of \$3,500**

2004-2005			2005-2006			2006-2007			2007-2008		
No. of	Retn.	Dollars	No. of	Retn.	Dollars	No. of	Retn.	Dollars	No. of	Retn.	Dollars
Students	Rate	Awarded	Students	Rate	Awarded	Students	Rate	Awarded	Students	Rate	Awarded
450	na	\$1,575,000	450	84%	\$1,575,000	450	84%	\$1,575,000	450	84%	\$1,575,000
0	na	\$0	378	na	\$1,323,000	378	74%	\$1,323,000	378	74%	\$1,323,000
0	na	\$0	0	na	\$0	333	na	\$1,165,500	333	65%	\$1,165,500
0	na	\$0	0	na	\$0	0	na	\$0	293	na	\$1,025,500
450		\$1,575,000	828		\$2,898,000	1161		\$4,063,500	1454		\$5,089,000

Na= Not applicable

By fiscal year 2008, when the award is fully funded at \$3,500 per student per year, it will cost approximately \$5 million, or \$3.5 million more than in fiscal year 2005.

***Effective Date***

The High School Honor Scholarship has been in effect for over 30 years. To give the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, and the high school adequate time to promote and explain the proposed changes to students and parents, the Task Force recommends that these changes not go into effect until the academic year 2004. This gives the affected public one-year notice of the change.

***Recommendation:*** In academic year 2004 recipients would be selected at the 6<sup>th</sup> semester, based on class ranking and a minimum GPA of 3.5.

***Criteria to Break a Tie Between Students***

A tie between students can occur because the majority of high schools use a grading system with an "A" equal to 4 points, a "B" equal to 3 points, and so on down the scale with a "D" equal to 1 point. This non-weighted scale can result in several students having an equal GPA. Some high schools have as many as 14 students tied with a 4.0. When this occurs, the high school administrators and parents contact Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program regarding the criteria to break the tie. Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program has advised the high schools that they should have a written policy to address this issue. However, many high schools do not, therefore tension runs high between the possible recipients and the high school administration over the method used to break the tie.

Until academic year 1998, high schools were allowed to divide the scholarship among recipients, each one receiving a fraction of the award, diluting the value of the total award. Recipients who received a fraction of the scholarship would enroll with one-half or one-third of it and the financial aid officers at the campus determined its value. Since the majority of the recipients sharing a scholarship did not enroll at the same college, it created an accounting nightmare for the campus. In academic year 1998, the high schools were informed they could no longer divide the scholarship.

***Recommendation:*** The Task Force recommends that the Regents' policy clearly define the process the high school should use to break a tie. If the students' cumulative GPA is the same, the high school administration should use the results of the standardized achievement tests that students take their junior or senior year. If by some chance the students' score on the achievement test is identical then the high school should evaluate the quality of the classes taken by the students, giving higher weight to advance placement and college preparatory classes.

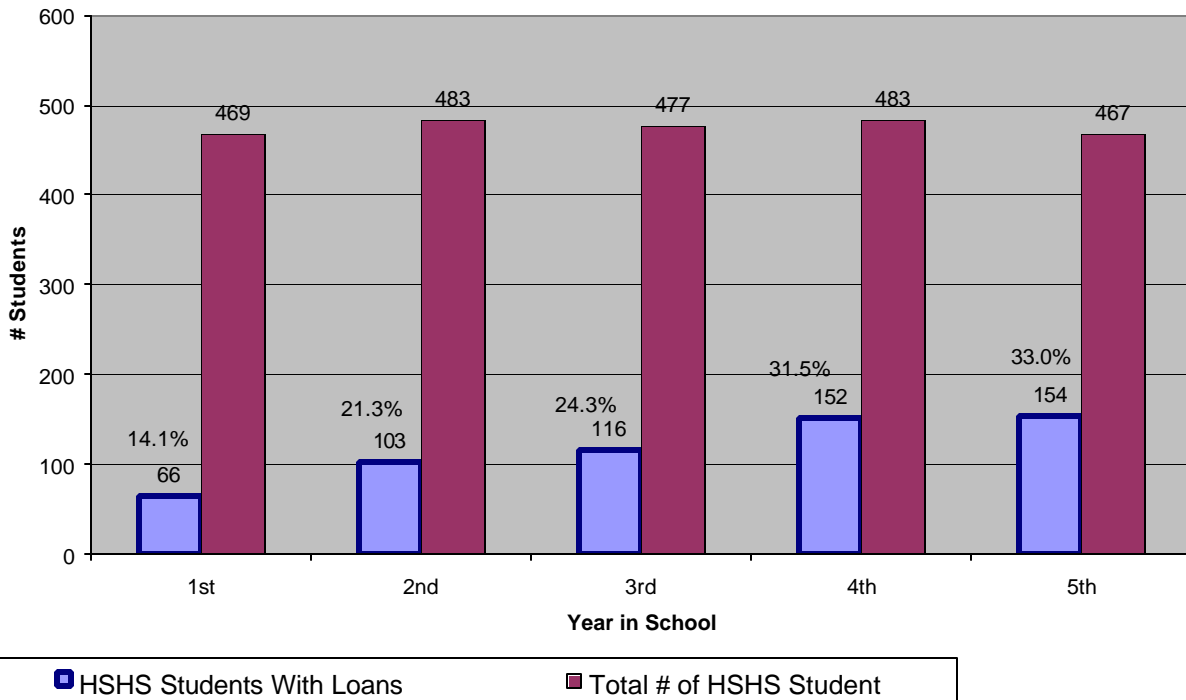
**Additional Information**

**Financial Need and Financial Aid**

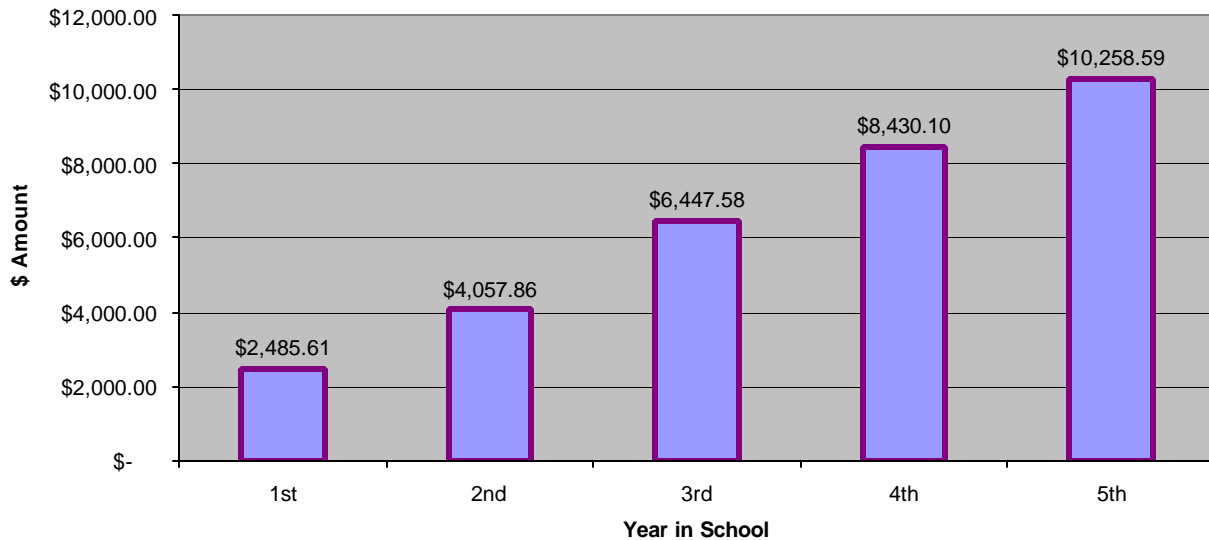
Access to higher education is one of the issues identified by the Board of Regents in its strategic plan. It is also one of the most widely debated topics today. Should the scarce resources available in higher education be directed at need-based aid versus rewarding students for their academic achievement? The Task Force was not asked to look at this issue, but believed it was part of our responsibility to analyze, if possible, whether the students who receive the High School Honor Scholarship would attend college regardless of receiving the award. Does the scholarship provide access or does it only award academics?

The Task Force did a cross-match with the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program’s database to determine the number of recipients taking out student loans. Of the students identified from academic years 1997 through 2001, thirty-three percent of the students had student loans. (Chart A) The loan debt ranged from approximately \$2,500 in the first year of college to over \$ 10,000 by the fourth year. (Chart B)

**CHART A** High School Honor Scholarship Students with Loans 1997-2001



**CHART B** Average Loan Amount High School Honor Scholarship Students 1997-2001



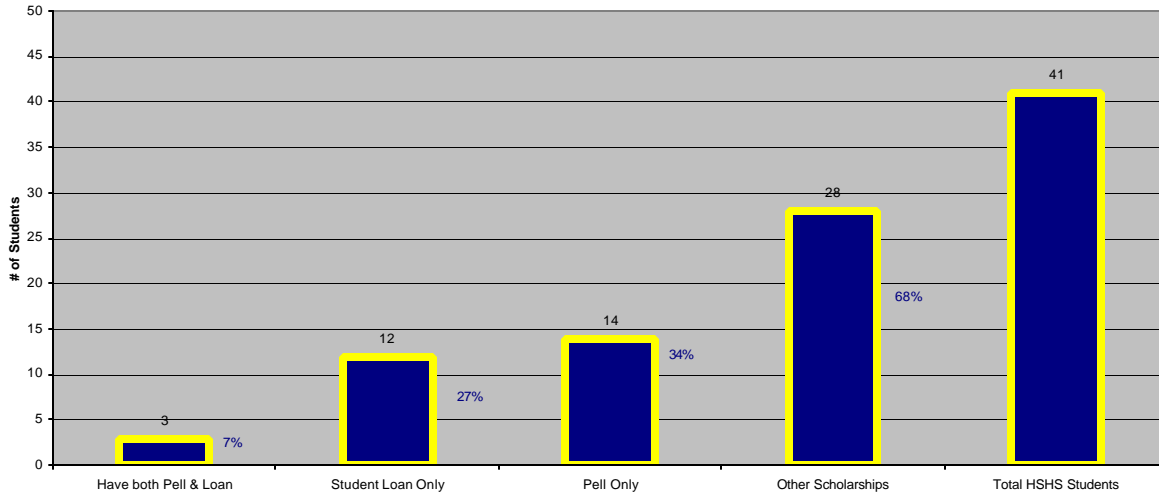
Average \$ Amount of Student Loans for HSHS Students per year in school

## Other Financial Aid

The financial aid officers at Montana State University-Billings (Chart C) and The University of Montana (Chart D) identified the number of recipients from academic year 2001 that qualified for a Pell Grant. Of the 41 recipients attending MSU-Billings, 34% were eligible for a Pell Grant, 27% took out a student loan, and 68% had other scholarships. Only 10% of the scholarship recipients had both a Pell Grant and a student loan. Of the 123 students attending The University of Montana, 27% were eligible for a Pell Grant and 22% took out a student loan. Only 9% of the scholarship recipients had both a Pell Grant and a student loan.

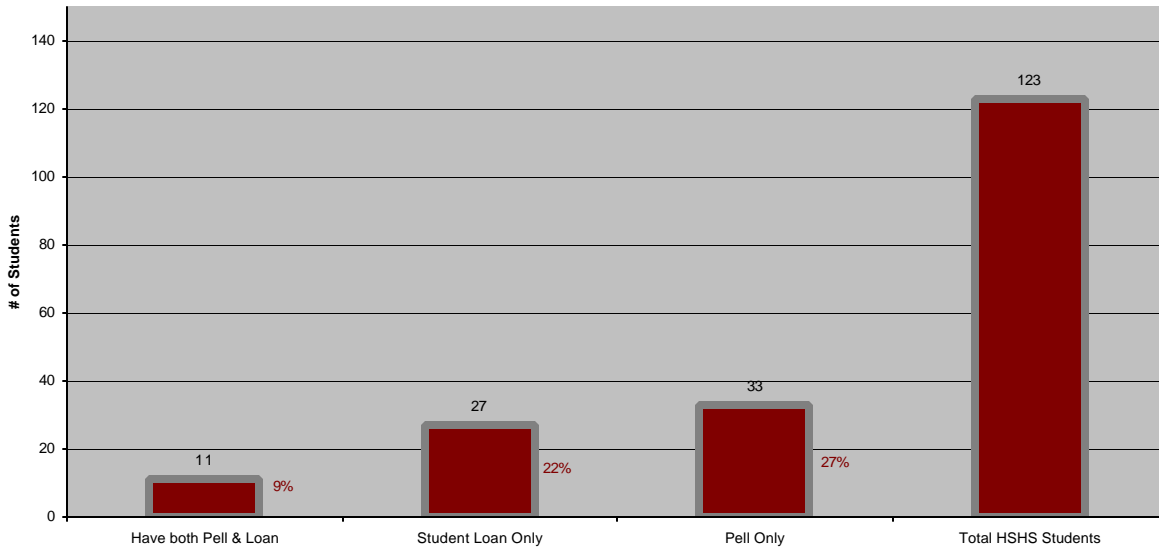
### CHART C

MSU - Billings HSHS Student Information 1997-2001



### CHART D

The University of Montana HSHS Student Information 1997-2001

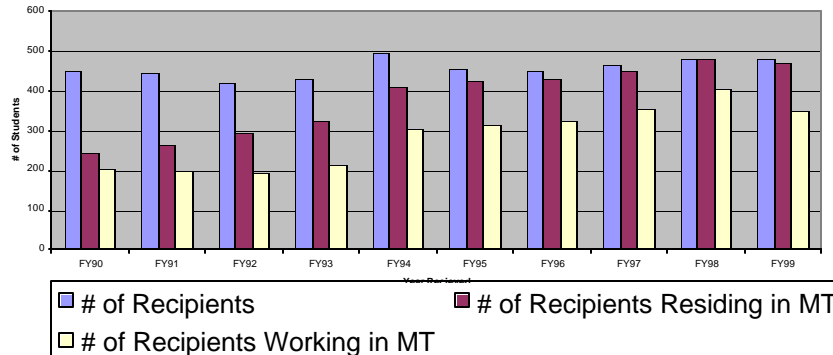


## Recipients Residing in Montana

Recipients of the High School Honor Scholarship who remain in Montana after graduation contribute to the economy of the state by paying taxes and supporting Montana businesses. In addition, they utilize their education through employment in professional and administrative positions, and by taking an active role in their communities.

HSHS Students Residing In Montana

CHART E



## Scholarship Programs in Other States

The Task Force reviewed comparable scholarship programs in other states (Table I) to determine the number that have a state funded scholarship program. North Dakota, Illinois, Tennessee, Delaware and New Jersey's eligibility criteria are similar to Montana's except their awards are renewable up to four years. Both New Mexico and Connecticut have a need-based component. In New Mexico the combined family income may not exceed \$30,000 per year. In Connecticut students with the highest need are awarded first, then students with the next highest need and so on until the funds are exhausted. Colorado is changing their state scholarship to direct the funds to the students with combined family incomes below \$45,000 per year. States like California, Texas, New York, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana have the most lucrative scholarships that are awarded to all students that meet the grade point average requirement.

Table I

Merit Based Scholarships By State

State	Name of Scholarship	GPA Requirement	Other Req.	Amt of Scholarship Annually	Renewable	To stay eligible
Arkansas	Governor's Scholars Program	3.5 GPA or ranked by ACT/SAT, GPA in academic courses rank in class and leadership. 100 awarded	27 ACT or 1220 on SAT	\$4,000	yes, 4 years	
	Governor's Distinguished Scholarship	3.5 GPA and or National Merit Finalist or National Achievement Scholar	27 ACT or 1220 SAT	tuition, mandatory fees, room and board  up to \$10,000	yes, 4 years	
Connecticut	Capitol Scholarship Program	top 20% of class or  1200 on SAT	grants based on lowest Expected Family Contribution (EFC) first	In state \$2,000 Out of State \$500		



State	Name of Scholarship	GPA Requirement	Other Req.	Amt of Scholarship Annually	Renewable	To stay eligible
Delaware	Diamond State Scholarship	top 25% of class	1200 on SAT or 27 on ACT awards, honors, activities, leadership, essay	\$1,250	yes, 4 years	3.00 GPA
Florida	Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)	3.5 weighted GPA	1270 SAT, 28 ACT  75 hours of Community Service	100% of Tuition and Fees + \$300	yes, 4 years if GPA 2.75-2.99 renew as FMS	3.00 GPA
Bright Futures Scholarship Program	Florida Merit Scholars Award (FMS)	3.00 weighted GPA	970 SAT, 20 ACT	75% of Tuition and Fees	yes, 4 years	2.75 GPA
	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award	3.00 weighted in core classes 3.5 unweighted in vocational	CPT: R 83 SS 83 AI 72; SAT: V 440 M 440  ACT: E 17 R 18 M 19	75% of Tuition and Fees	yes, 4 years	2.75 GPA
Idaho	Idaho Promise Scholarship Category A	3.5, top 10% of class	28 on ACT	\$3,000	yes, 4 years	3.0 GPA
	Idaho Promise Scholarship Category B	3.00	20 on ACT	\$500	yes, 2 years	2.5 GPA
	Idaho Tuition Scholarship (University of Idaho)	3.3	20 ACT or 950 SAT Student from states other than Idaho	\$5,000	yes, 4 years	
Illinois	Illinois Merit Recognition Scholarship	top 5% of class		\$1,000	No	
Montana	High School Honor Scholarship	3.00 Ranks within highest 1/4th of class	One scholarship awarded for every 25 students or fraction thereof per high school	tuition & registration fee at MUS school covers first two semesters	no	
New Jersey	Distinguished Scholars Program	top 10% of class	minimum 1260 on SAT 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in class	\$1,000	yes, 4 years	
	Outstanding Scholar Recruitment Program	top 15% of class	minimum 1250 on SAT	\$2,500-\$7,000	yes, 4 years	3.0 GPA 24 credits per year

State	Name of Scholarship	GPA Requirement	Other Req.	Amt of Scholarship Annually	Renewable	To stay eligible
<b>New Mexico</b>	New Mexico Scholars Program	top 5% of class jr. or sr. year	25 on ACT of 1140 on SAT family income < \$30,000 <\$40,000 if more than one in family enrolled	tuition, required fees, books	yes, 4 years	
<b>New York</b>	New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence	top students		2000 scholarships of \$1,500 6000 scholarships of \$500	yes, 5 years	
<b>North Dakota</b>	North Dakota Merit Based Scholarship	top 20% of class	top 5% in nation on ACT	tuition at NDUS school	yes, 4 years	3.5 GPA
<b>South Dakota</b>	Robert Byrd Honors Scholarship	High ACT or SAT score	20 scholarships per year		yes, 4 years	
<b>South Carolina</b>	Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program	3.5, top 5% of class	1200 on SAT or 27 on ACT	\$5,000 for participating in state college	yes, 8 semesters	
<b>Tennessee</b>	McWhorter Scholars Program	3.5	top 5% in nation on ACT or SAT	\$6,000	yes, 4 years	3.2 GPA for year
<b>West Virginia</b>	West Virginia Promise Scholarship	3.00	21 on ACT or 1000 on SAT	Full tuition in state equivalent \$ amt to in-state private school	yes	2.75 GPA first year 3.00 GPA after

### Attachment A

#### Class Rankings of Recipients of High School Honor Scholarship - Award Year 2001

High School	Student Rank	GPA	% of Class	High School	Student Rank	GPA	% of Class
<b>Big Sky - Msla</b>	245 students in class			<b>Flathead - Kali</b>	526 students in class		
	7	3.98	3%		1	4.00	0%
	7	3.98	3%		1	4.00	0%
Awarded	9	3.98	4%	Awarded	1	4.00	0%
10	10	3.98	4%	21	17	3.97	3%
	13	3.94	5%		20	3.90	4%
	14	3.92	6%	Eligible for	23	3.87	4%
Eligible for	16	3.92	7%	21	29	3.87	6%
10	19	3.91	8%		31	3.84	6%
	20	3.91	8%		34	3.83	6%
	21	3.9	9%		40	3.80	8%
<i>Relinquished</i>	<b>11</b>				43	3.79	8%
<i>% of eligible students who relinquished</i>							
<i>HSHS</i>	<b>52%</b>				47	3.78	9%

<b>Billings Senior</b>		382 students in class		
		1	4.00	0%
		8	3.97	2%
Awarded		12	3.95	3%
	15	14	3.93	4%
		14	3.93	4%
Eligible for		14	3.93	4%
	15	19	3.90	5%
		20	3.90	5%
		20	3.90	5%
		23	3.85	6%
		26	3.83	7%
		28	3.83	7%
		29	3.83	8%
		32	3.78	8%
		32	3.78	8%
<i>Relinquished</i>		<b>17</b>		
<i>% of eligible students who relinquished HSHS</i>				<b>53%</b>

<b>Billings West</b>		443 students in class		
		1	4.00	0%
		10	3.90	2%
Awarded		10	3.90	2%
	17	18	3.86	4%
		19	3.85	4%
Eligible for		19	3.85	4%
	18	19	3.85	4%
		19	3.85	4%
		19	3.85	4%
		35	3.80	8%
		35	3.80	8%
		35	3.80	8%
		38	3.79	9%
		42	3.77	9%
		43	3.76	10%
		43	3.76	10%
		47	3.76	11%
<i>Relinquished</i>		<b>30</b>		
<i>% of eligible students who relinquished HSHS</i>				<b>64%</b>

<b>Bozeman Senior</b>		396 students in class		
		1	4.00	0%
		1	4.00	0%
Awarded		12	3.97	3%
	16	16	3.95	4%

		49	3.78	9%
		51	3.77	10%
		52	3.77	10%
		54	3.76	10%
		55	3.74	10%
		59	3.72	11%
		60	3.72	11%
		63	3.71	12%
		64	3.71	12%
<i>Relinquished</i>		<b>43</b>		
<i>% of eligible students who relinquished HSHS</i>				<b>67%</b>

<b>Great Falls High School</b>		348 students in class		
		1	4.00	0%
		1	4.00	0%
Awarded		8	3.98	2%
	14	9	3.97	3%
		12	3.96	3%
Eligible for		14	3.93	4%
	14	17	3.91	5%
		20	3.91	6%
		21	3.89	6%
		25	3.87	7%
		27	3.85	8%
		29	3.84	8%
		31	3.83	9%
		33	3.82	9%
<i>Relinquished</i>		<b>19</b>		
<i>% of eligible students who relinquished HSHS</i>				<b>58%</b>

<b>Sentinel - Msla</b>		246 students in class		
		1	4.00	0%
		1	4.00	0%
Awarded		17	3.95	7%
	8	22	3.90	9%
		23	3.90	9%
Eligible for		24	3.88	10%
	10	30	3.83	12%
		33	3.76	13%
<i>Relinquished</i>		<b>25</b>		
<i>% of eligible students who relinquished HSHS</i>				<b>76%</b>

<b>Helena High</b>		356 students in class		
		1	4.00	0%
		1	4.00	0%
Awarded		1	4.00	0%
	14	11	3.97	3%

	16	3.95	4%
Eligible for	27	3.90	7%
16	28	3.90	7%
	29	3.89	7%
	30	3.88	8%
	35	3.86	9%
	36	3.85	9%
	41	3.84	10%
	43	3.83	11%
	50	3.80	13%
	51	3.79	13%
	52	3.79	13%
<i>Relinquished</i>	<b>36</b>		
<i>% of eligible students</i>			
<i>who relinquished</i>			
<i>HSHS</i>	<b>69%</b>		

	15	3.95	4%
Eligible for	21	3.91	6%
14	33	3.83	9%
	34	3.82	10%
	35	3.82	10%
	38	3.81	11%
	39	3.80	11%
	41	3.77	12%
	42	3.77	12%
	44	3.76	12%
<i>Relinquished</i>	<b>30</b>		
<i>% of eligible students</i>			
<i>who relinquished</i>			
<i>HSHS</i>	<b>68%</b>		

<b>Capital - Helena</b>		313 students in class	
	10	3.97	3%
	12	3.95	4%
Awarded	19	3.98	6%
10	19	3.98	6%
	25	3.87	8%
Eligible for	30	3.85	10%
13	31	3.83	10%
	34	3.80	11%
	38	3.78	12%
	39	3.77	12%
<i>Relinquished</i>	<b>29</b>		
<i>% of eligible students</i>			
<i>who relinquished</i>			
<i>HSHS</i>	<b>74%</b>		

<b>Hellgate - Msla</b>		250 students in class	
	1	4.00	0%
	10	3.97	4%
Awarded	10	3.97	4%
10	13	3.95	5%
	15	3.93	6%
Eligible for	16	3.91	6%
10	17	3.89	7%
	18	3.88	7%
	25	3.83	10%
	30	3.80	12%
<i>Relinquished</i>	<b>20</b>		
<i>% of eligible students</i>			
<i>who relinquished</i>			
<i>HSHS</i>	<b>67%</b>		

<b>CMR - GF</b>		375 students in class	
	1	4.00	0%
	1	4.00	0%
Awarded	9	3.97	2%
14	10	3.96	3%
	12	3.94	3%
Eligible for	13	3.93	3%
15	17	3.89	5%
	19	3.87	5%
	30	3.75	8%
	32	3.73	9%
	32	3.73	9%
	35	3.71	9%
	37	3.71	10%
	39	3.70	10%
<i>Relinquished</i>	<b>25</b>		
<i>% of eligible students</i>			
<i>who relinquished</i>			
<i>HSHS</i>	<b>64%</b>		

<b>Skyview - Bil</b>		313 students in class	
	4	3.97	1%
	8	3.95	3%
Awarded	8	3.95	3%
13	11	3.92	4%
	13	3.90	4%
Eligible for	13	3.90	4%
13	15	3.90	5%
	17	3.87	5%
	18	3.86	6%
	20	3.85	6%
	22	3.85	7%
	24	3.82	8%
	25	3.82	8%
<i>Relinquished</i>	<b>12</b>		
<i>% of eligible students</i>			
<i>who relinquished</i>			
<i>HSHS</i>	<b>48%</b>		

Attachment B

# Receive \$5.00 for Five Minutes of Your Time

### High School Honor Scholarship

In the spring of your high school graduation year, you were awarded a Montana Board of Regents' *High School Honor Scholarship*. The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program administers this scholarship on their behalf and we need your help to assist us in planning for future recipients.

1. Did you enroll and use the High School Honor Scholarship at one of these colleges?

Yes Please check the name of the college.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-Billings        | <input type="checkbox"/> U of M -Missoula     | <input type="checkbox"/> Helena COT                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-Bozeman         | <input type="checkbox"/> U of M COT- Missoula | <input type="checkbox"/> Dawson Community College    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-COT- Billings   | <input type="checkbox"/> U of M -Western      | <input type="checkbox"/> Flathead Valley Com College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-Northern        | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana Tech- Butte  | <input type="checkbox"/> Miles Community College     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-COT-Great Falls | <input type="checkbox"/> MT Tech COT - Butte  |  |

No Please skip to question 5

2. What year/ semester did you enroll in the above college? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you still enrolled?  Yes What is your anticipated year of graduation? \_\_\_\_\_  
 No Please continue to question 4

4. If you **used** the High School Honor Scholarship for your freshman year, **but did not return** to the college where you originally enrolled, we would like to know why.

(Please check as many responses as apply)

- The High School Honor Scholarship was not renewable after two semesters.
- Even using the High School Honor Scholarship, I could not afford college.
- I used the High School Honor Scholarship for one semester ONLY.
- I had personal problems or family concerns.
- I needed a break from college.
- I went to work.

Do you work?  full time; or  part time

What type of work are you doing? \_\_\_\_\_

I joined the military

I transferred to another school

Full name of college/campus transferred to: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Any other reason: \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you **never** used the High School Honor Scholarship we would like to know why.

(Please check as many responses as apply)

- I relinquished it.
- I did not enroll at an eligible school.

I am currently enrolled at:

Full name of college or campus: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

- I attended a trade or professional school.
- It covered only two semesters and I needed a renewable scholarship.
- I received a better scholarship. Amount of scholarship: \_\_\_\_\_
- Even with the High School Honor Scholarship, I could not afford college.

Any other reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any additional comments? \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Name of person completing survey: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing this survey.

**Please return in the self addressed stamped envelope.**

The information you provide is confidential and will not be used for any other purpose. Only summary data will be provided in reports or studies. If you have questions, please contact Sally Speer, grant & scholarship coordinator, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program 406-444-0638 or email: [sspeer@mgsfp.state.mt.us](mailto:sspeer@mgsfp.state.mt.us)