



MONTANA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

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ITEM 114-101-R0302 ATTACHMENT

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Arlene Hannawalt, Chair
High School Honor Scholarship Task Force

DATE: April 25, 2002

RE: Policy 501.1

Commissioner Crofts asked the Task Force to identify the proposed revisions to the High School Honor Scholarship that the Task Force felt were necessary even if the scholarship were not made a renewable scholarship. The attached policy identifies those revisions.

There is one major change to the policy from the March meeting. Section 3 under Procedures changes the way in which the student would establish eligibility for the scholarship. The student would continue to be ranked by the high school and have to rank in the top twenty-five percent of the graduating class, but in addition the student would have to apply for the scholarship and have to have applied for admissions to one of the eligible campuses or community colleges. This additional requirement was added to address the difficulty high school counselors have in getting relinquishment forms from students who have no intention of enrolling at one of the campuses of the Montana University System or one of the community colleges. The counselors have to hunt down the student, get both the students and parents signature on the relinquishment form, and hope they return it to the counselor before the deadline. This is very frustrating for the counselors at larger high schools and takes up a great deal of their time.

It is the Task Force's belief that the student should have to apply for the scholarship and show an intent to enroll or actual acceptance by the college to be considered for the scholarship. Those students who do not submit an application form will automatically be taken off the list of eligible students.

The Task Force also believes these changes should not be effective for one year. This will allow the high schools the opportunity to implement these changes and to properly notify students and parents of the changes.