NYSOBBA HESC Update

June 10, 2025

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Our Agenda For Today:

- 2025-26 Enacted Budget Highlights
- Financial Aid Updates
- NYSOBBA FAQs
- HESC Outreach

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2025-26 NYS Enacted Budget Highlights

Full Support for HESC programs

Continuing support for over **$1 billion** in HESC administered financial aid programs.

Programs like:
TAP • Excelsior • ETA • Other HESC programs

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Part-Time Financial Aid Programs

Consolidates three existing programs for part-time students

- Aid for Part-time study, Part-time Scholarship (PTS), and Part-time TAP into Part-time TAP simplifying the application process.
  - APTS will process 2024-25 recipients and discontinue in 2025-26
  - PTS will be discontinued after the 2024-25 academic year

Changes for Part-time TAP for 2025-26

- Minimum required credit hours reduced from six to three credits per semester

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Excelsior Scholarship Payments

Budget combines the Excelsior Scholarship award and the Excelsior Tuition Credit.

- Simplifies the administration of the Excelsior scholarship for HESC, schools, and students
- HESC will increase the maximum award for Excelsior up to actual tuition amount
- Still last dollar award

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Other Budget Inclusions

$1M for the Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship for a total of $4.9M

$50,000 for the NYS Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Program for a total of $200,000

$100,000 for the NYS Child Welfare Scholarship for a total of $150,000

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Veterans Tuition Award

BEGINNING ON 7/1/25

- Veteran who served at least 4 years on active duty will be eligible
    - Beginning with the Fall 2025 semester

PRIOR TO 7/1/25, ELIGIBILITY

- Served in Vietnam, Persian Gulf, or Afghanistan
- Served in hostilities that occurred after 1961 as evidenced by Armed Forces, Navy, or Marine Expeditionary Medal

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Veterans Tuition Award
Eligibility Update

EFFECTIVE 7/1/25

- Award for up to eight full time semesters total
  - Includes both undergraduate and graduate study

PRIOR TO 7/1/25

- Eight semesters for an undergraduate program and an additional six semesters for graduate study.
  - No longer in place after 7/1/25

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HESC Financial Aid Updates

Applications Open for 2025-26

STEM Application

12/2/24 - 8/15/25

**McGee Nursing
Faculty Scholarship**

5/2/25 – 6/17/25

**Excelsior/ETA
Application**

5/22/25 - 8/31/25

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2023-24 Closeout

- Closeout in process

  - 2nd closeout bulletin sent on March 18, 2025.

  - April 1, 2025: final roster sent

  - May 30, 2025: Final day to submit certifications and correct errors.

- June 2025: HESC closeout processing begins, including the release of the final Student Status List, Remittance Advice, and Excelsior/ETA Manifest

- Outstanding certifications or accounts in error will be decertified

- Accounts should be reconciled now.

2025-26 College Data Survey

- 2025-26 College Data Survey will close on July 12, 2025
  - Needed to calculate estimate/awards for New York State grant and scholarship programs.
  - Updated contact information for college staff
- After July 12th, please email collegeupdates@hesc.ny.gov to provide any updates
- Bulletin sent on January 8, 2025

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Q: Can you provide information about TAP for Incarcerated Students?

- Schools must be approved by Department of Corrections to participate
  - Applications submitted by schools on behalf of student
  - Processed by vendor and information sent to HESC
  - Same eligibility criteria as TAP processed by HESC (IVP, citizenship, residency)

- TAP recipients go on rosters, RA, SSL with all other students

- For more information:
  - TAP Application for Incarcerated Students | HESC

Q: Do you have a timeframe when schools can expect payment for Vaccine and NFOF scholarships?

Nurses for our Future (NFOF)
- Certification and processing is ongoing for 2022, 2023, and 2024
- HESC certifies on behalf of schools based on information provided to HESC
- Be sure all NFOF student enrollment and term information is current on the HESC website.

Vaccine Scholarship
- Developing payment process for awards
- Process will be set up similar to NFOF program

Q: When payments from HESC are received, how do we determine the source of the funds? Is there one place we can see what payments were sent and the source?

School officials with access to the Vendor Portal in the Statewide financial System (SFS) can see all payments from HESC. Each agency assigns their payments an invoice or reference numbers. HESC reference/invoice numbers are informative.

Example: 1234 425 801 30 REF123456

1234
four digit TAP College Code

425
term and year
(spring term, 2025-26 academic year)

801
Roster Number

30
Run Number

REF123456
Reference number reported on
Accounting Documents

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Q: If we have a student whom we can verify (via HESC) has received TAP prior at another school, does that mean we can assume they have provided proof of HS graduation and therefore we do not have to pursue obtaining a final HS transcript?

This is an SED requirement

- *(1) For students first receiving aid pursuant to section 661 of the Education Law in the 2007-2008 academic year and each academic year thereafter,* **students shall have a certificate of graduation from a recognized school providing secondary education from a state within the United States**, *or the recognized equivalent of such certificate, or receive a passing score on a federally approved ability-to-benefit test identified by the Board of Regents as satisfying the eligibility requirements of this section that has been independently administered and evaluated, as defined by the commissioner in subdivision (e) of this section.*

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Q: If your school is audited and you do not have the documentation, could it be an audit finding?

- Yes, you are assuming the first school has the proof of HS graduation

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Q: When certifying a student is registered full time, but is considered in a reduced number of credits for TAP purposes (e.g., a student whose enrollment includes a course that is not TAP eligible), would the program pursuit requirement only before applicable to the credits the student was certified for?

- Schools review Pursuit based on what type of TAP award they certify the student for.
- If the student is certified for a full time TAP award, then they evaluate based on the full-time pursuit requirements.
- If the student is certified for a Part-time TAP award, then they evaluate pursuit based on the Part-time TAP requirements.

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Comprehensive Payment Status Report

- Customized Report- QGP011
  - Provides payment information for accounts paid on roster and consolidated roster
  - Combined payments allow for ease of reconciliation
  - Provided in excel spreadsheet

- Customize to provide information needed
  - Information by program or all programs
  - Payment status
  - Term
  - Roster number

Comprehensive Payment Status Report

NYSOBBA FAQs

Q: Can HESC scholarships be adjusted for actual student costs prior to the end of the term?

Cost of attendance (COA) awards
- Award equal to SUNY average COA or actual COA whichever is less
  - Initial student award indicates the value of a commuter student
  - Schools provide certification on a Consolidated Roster
  - HESC processes based on allowable timing for program- 100% liability date

Tuition only awards
- Award equal to average SUNY tuition rate or actual tuition whichever is less
  - HESC processes based on allowable timing for program
    - 100% liability date for Veterans Tuition Award and Nurses for our Future
    - End of term for STEM, MSTI, MIE as these students have GPA requirements
    - Currently no process in place to decertify early for those at end of term
      - Will look to see if this can be done in the future

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Q: When can schools certify for reduction of credits for Excelsior?

- Currently, schools can certify for break in attendance either electronically or on website.

- Reduction in credits
  - Certification currently manual process
  - School provides certification on spreadsheet
  - Submits Approved Allowable Interruption Form
  - HESC certifies on behalf of school
  - Student payment information sent to school on consolidated roster
  - Automation to be developed at a future date

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Q: Is the school required to send written notification of a TAP decertification, or is an email sufficient?

- Schools can decertify TAP either electronically or online

- Students should be notified in the same manner you do for other programs

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Q: Would HESC consider preventing students from coming in on SSL if they are missing a certification for Excelsior

Excelsior students sent on the SSL

- Fully approved (IVP, citizenship, residency) AND
- Signed Excelsior contract AND
- Excelsior eligibility flag set to "1" eligible or "9" spring only

Transfer students in eligible status

- Roll over as eligible in subsequent year
- Certified as follows:
  - Evaluation term 1: student enrolls in 12 credits in program of study receives payment regardless of how many credits were accepted
  - Evaluation term 2: student must enroll in 12 credits, earn 30 credits for the year AND be on track for on-time completion
- Students are required to make up credits lost from transfer credit process
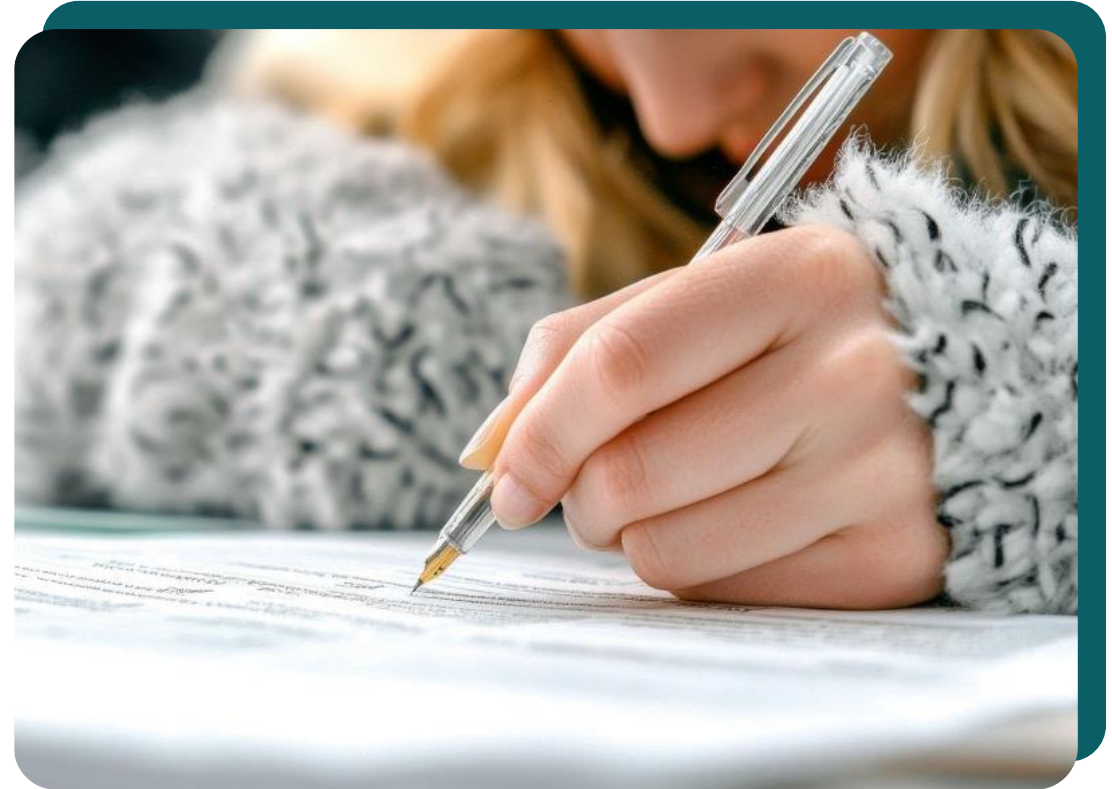
Remittance Advices (RA)

For active academic years, HESC produces Remittance Advices (RA) every two weeks reporting back to schools the net affect their certification activity had on student awards.

- These are available in the Reports section of HESCWeb Transaction Processing.

Once an academic year is closed to systemic processing, schools submit change forms to correct previously certified awards.

- These are processed manually and take time. HESC will send an invoice with accompanying "Packets" containing new RAs and Accounting Documents.

- HESC expects all previously submitted change forms for be completed and invoiced later this summer.

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Q: How does the credit verification process work for Excelsior?

- HESC sends a file to SED with all Excelsior applicants who indicated they are first-time students.

- SED processes and provides HESC with high school graduation dates for all students found in their system.

- HESC updates the scholarship system with those determined by SED as first-time students.

  - For Fall 2025 applicants, first-time college students are considered those with a high school graduation date between April 2025 and August 2025.

- Any student not found as 2025 high school graduate will be sent on the credit verification file to the college for review.

- Students who indicate they previously attended college are sent for credit verification to the college.

- Schools will also receive credit verification requests via email if the student is asking for an allowable interruption or is not in agreement with what has been provided.

Q: Where on the HESC website can you find if a student waiver was used?

Waiver is displayed on "View Student Record" on HESCweb, the electronic roster and the paper roster.

First Application Year: 2018 - 19
Academic Waiver: FALL 2023-24 UNDERGRADUATE

Tuition: $9999.99	
Other Benefits: $0.00	
Enrollment Status: FT	
Academic Waiver: FALL 2023-24 UNDERGRADUATE	

Q: Historically, our school does not receive confirmation from HESC when we submit corrections or return funds (e.g., in response to HESC billings).
It is important for us to know when HESC makes those updates for reconciliation purposes (otherwise, our reconciliation activity doesn't balance):
Is there a mechanism through which that confirmation occurs/communication is sent to the school?

- **Active Academic Years** – HESC produces Remittance Advices (RA) every two weeks reporting back to schools the net affect their certification activity had on student awards. These are available in the Reports section of HESCWeb Transaction Processing.

- **Closed Academic Years** – School submit change forms to correct previously certified awards after an academic year closed to systemic processing. These are processed manually and take time. HESC will send an invoice with accompanying "Packets" containing new Ras and Accounting Documents as these are processed. All previously submitted change forms will be completed and invoiced later this summer.

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Q: If a student receives a small tuition only scholarship which would not impact their TAP award, do we need to report it?

- All tuition only scholarships must be reported on the TAP certification
- Tuition less TAP award less other aid

Q: Can HESC create a 'cheat sheet' detailing what reports are available to schools?

HESC will develop a list of current available reports with descriptions of what each report provides.

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HESC Outreach

Alternate Eligibility Path Application

- For students who are U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens, but the student's parent(s) or spouse (FAFSA contributors) are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

- Application to create alternative pathways for NYS residents who are not comfortable completing the FAFSA to apply for state-funded financial aid

    - Protects sensitive personal information.

    - Not eligible for Excelsior or Enhanced Tuition Award (ETA)

- Application available

- For more information: Alternate Eligibility Path | HESC

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Financial Aid Professionals News and Updates

- Sign up for HESC notifications and bulletins
  - Under Financial Aid Professional section of website
  - News and Updates
    - Add/change/delete email addresses
  - Receive latest updates on HESC programs, bulletins, TAP processing, and more
  - New ACH Account and Refund Instructions available in Financial Aid Professional's section of HESC website.

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Q: Are there training materials for new college administrators?

- Training materials and recorded webinars are available on HESC website
  - [Financial Aid Professionals | HESC](#)
- Schools can request training
- TAP coach under development and will be available shortly
- Updates to Policy and Procedure manuals

HESC Contact information:

General processing questions
prioriityservices@hesc.ny.gov

Payment information including payments, refunds, reconciliation assistance
payments@hesc.ny.gov

Schools do not need to make an appointment but should reach out to priority services requesting a phone call
- Currently you cannot call in to speak to a team member

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Thank You

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