Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 283—Chapter 10
"Uniform Policies"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 256.178
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Executive Order 10

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

August 26, 2025 9 a.m.	Room B50 Grimes State Office Building Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the College Student Aid Commission no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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Bureau of Iowa College Aid
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Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Email: david.ford@iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

The Commission plans to rescind and adopt a new Chapter 10 pursuant to Executive Order 10. Proposed Chapter 10 consolidates uniform policies and definitions that are referenced in other chapters under the purview of the Bureau of Iowa College Aid.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

- **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

In general, the proposed rulemaking does not impose requirements that would add administrative burden beyond the provisions already established in law.

- **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

Utilizing this chapter to provide all uniform policies and definitions allows the Bureau of Iowa College Aid to more fully achieve the requirements stipulated under Executive Order 10.

2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

The rulemaking does not impose measurable costs beyond those imposed by law.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

Utilizing this chapter allows the Bureau of Iowa College Aid to more fully achieve the requirements stipulated under Executive Order 10.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

Not applicable.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

The proposed rulemaking is not anticipated to have any effect on State revenues.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

Utilizing this chapter allows the Bureau of Iowa College Aid to more fully achieve the requirements stipulated under Executive Order 10.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

This is the least restrictive approach to fully achieving the requirements of Executive Order 10.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

No other methods were seriously considered by the Commission since rulemaking is the most efficient method of meeting the requirements of Executive Order 10.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Utilizing this chapter allows the Bureau of Iowa College Aid to more fully achieve the requirements stipulated under Executive Order 10.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

The proposed rulemaking is not expected to have an impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 283—Chapter 10 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 10
UNIFORM POLICIES

283—10.1(256) Purpose. This chapter describes uniform definitions and policies that apply to programs administered by the college student aid commission.

283—10.2(256) Definitions.

"Financial metric" is the means by which the commission ranks the relative financial need of an applicant for financial assistance. The calculated financial metric shall be evaluated annually on the basis of a confidential statement of family finances filed on a form designated by the commission. The commission has adopted the use of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a federal

form developed by the U.S. Department of Education, which is used to determine the financial metric. Relative need will be ranked based on the applicant's financial metric provided by the U.S. Department of Education. The FAFSA must be received by the processing agent by the date specified by the commission. A negative financial metric is the equivalent of zero.

"Financial need" is the difference between the applicant's cost of attendance, as defined in Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as of July 1, 2025, and the applicant's financial metric and other available financial assistance at the eligible institution.

"Full-time" means enrollment in at least 12 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, that are part of a program of study. Credits that a student receives through "life experience credit" and "credit by examination" are not eligible for funding. Only coursework required for the student's eligible program of study can be used to determine enrollment status for state award calculations.

"Iowa resident" means a person who:

1. If attending an Iowa regent university, Iowa private college or university, or Iowa barber or cosmetology college, meets the criteria used by the state board of regents to determine residency for tuition purposes as described in rule 681—1.4(262) and, if the person qualifies for residency only as described in 681—paragraph 1.4(2)*"b,"* meets the following additional criteria:

- Is a veteran or qualifying military person domiciled in the state of Iowa who is not dependent upon a parent for financial support;
- Is a dependent veteran or qualifying military person whose parent is domiciled in the state of Iowa; or
- Is the spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child of a veteran or qualifying military person who is domiciled in the state of Iowa; or

2. If attending an Iowa community college, meets the criteria defined by the Iowa department of education to determine residency for community college tuition purposes as defined in 281—subrule 21.2(11) and, if the person qualifies for residency only as described in 281—subparagraph 21.2(11)*"b"*(5), meets the following additional criteria:

- Is a veteran of uniformed service or a national guard member domiciled in the state of Iowa who is not dependent upon a parent for financial support;
- Is a dependent veteran of uniformed service or a national guard member whose parent is domiciled in the state of Iowa; or
- Is the spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child of a veteran of uniformed service or a national guard member who is domiciled in the state of Iowa.

"Part-time" means enrollment that includes 3 to 11 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, that are part of a program of study. Credits that a student receives through "life experience credit" and "credit by examination" are not eligible for funding. Only coursework required for the student's eligible program of study can be used to determine enrollment status for state award calculations.

"Program of study" means a course of study that is eligible for federal student aid programs and leads to a teaching license or an undergraduate diploma, certificate, or degree.

"Satisfactory academic progress" is determined by the eligible institution, the standards of which meet the criteria for participation in federal student aid programs and are published on the eligible institution's website.

283—10.3(256) Policies. A student who is in default on a Stafford Loan, SLS Loan, PLUS Loan, or Perkins/National Direct/National Defense Student Loan or who owes a repayment on any Title IV grant assistance or state award shall be ineligible for assistance under the program. The student regains eligibility under this rule by providing documentation to the eligible institution that the student has regained eligibility under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as of July 1, 2025.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 256.