

COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION[283]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 283—Chapter 13
“Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 256.178 and 256.192
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 256.192

Public Hearing

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

October 20, 2026
3:30 p.m.

Room B50
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral 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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Purpose and Summary

The Commission proposes to amend Chapter 13 pursuant to 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, relating to the administration of the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program. The amendments expand program access to eligible programs at Iowa barbering and cosmetology schools. The rulemaking ensures that program administration aligns with current law and provides clear guidance regarding eligibility, application, and award processes.

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:

• Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:

The Commission does not anticipate that the proposed amendments will impose additional costs on students, Iowa community colleges, school districts, or other participating entities. The amendments primarily implement statutory changes enacted in 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, and relate to the administration of the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program. Barbering and cosmetology schools that choose to participate in the program will incur costs related to program administration, including reporting requirements.

• Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:

The proposed amendments will benefit students who are eligible for and receive assistance under the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program by aligning administrative rules with

the requirements of 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, and ensuring consistent administration of the program. Improved clarity regarding eligibility criteria and award procedures is expected to enhance access to program benefits for students pursuing approved vocational and technical education programs. Students attending participating barbering and cosmetology schools will now benefit from eligibility within the program.

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 proposed amendments do not create a new appropriation or modify the total amount of funding available under the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program. The fiscal impact is limited to the administration and distribution of existing appropriated funds in accordance with 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

The proposed amendments are expected to improve clarity and consistency in the administration of the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program by aligning administrative rules with 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783. The changes are intended to expand access to vocational and technical education programs and eligible programs at barbering and cosmetology schools.

3. Costs to the State:

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

The Commission does not anticipate significant implementation or enforcement costs associated with the proposed amendments. The changes primarily reflect statutory updates enacted in 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, and will be implemented using existing staff and resources.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have an effect on State revenues. The amendments implement statutory changes to the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant program and do not create, modify, or eliminate any taxes, fees, or other revenue sources.

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

The proposed amendments are necessary to implement 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, and ensure that administrative rules accurately reflect current statutory requirements for the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program.

The benefits of the proposed rulemaking include improved administrative clarity, consistent application of eligibility requirements, and enhanced transparency for students and participating institutions. The benefits also include increased access to funds for students at participating barbering and cosmetology schools. The costs associated with the rulemaking are minimal and limited to administrative updates.

Inaction would result in administrative rules that do not reflect current statutory requirements, potentially creating confusion for applicants and institutions and limiting the Commission's ability to consistently administer the program. The Commission therefore concludes that the benefits of the proposed rulemaking outweigh the minimal costs.

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

The Commission has determined that no less costly or less intrusive method exists to achieve the purpose of the proposed rulemaking. The amendments are necessary to implement statutory changes enacted in 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783.

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 the method proposed is the most cost-efficient and seamless for all entities involved.

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

Alternative methods were rejected because they would lead to additional burden on applicants, eligible institutions, and the Commission.

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. Amend rule 283—13.1(256) as follows:

283—13.1(256) Basis of aid. Assistance available under the Iowa vocational-technical tuition grant program is tuition-restricted and is also based on the financial metric and financial need of Iowa residents enrolled in eligible programs of study at Iowa community colleges or eligible programs of study at licensed Iowa barbering and cosmetology colleges.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 283—13.3(256) as follows:

283—13.3(256) Eligible applicant. An eligible applicant is an Iowa resident who is enrolled at least part-time in a program of study that is classified as a career and technical education program by the Iowa department of education or a barbering cosmetology arts and sciences program; meets the award eligibility criteria; and meets the following provisions:

1. and 2. No change.

ITEM 3. Amend rule 283—13.4(256) as follows:

283—13.4(256) Awarding of funds.

13.4(1) No change.

13.4(2) Extent of award and maximum award. Eligible applicants may receive no more than the equivalent of four full-time awards. If the program of study cannot be completed by the eligible applicant within the extent of the award, the eligible applicant may qualify for the equivalent of one additional full-time award. These limits reset after two years of no postsecondary enrollment, pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.192(3) "b."

a. The maximum award for full-time students will not exceed the student's financial need and may be the lesser of:

- (1) The difference between the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, books and supplies, as determined by the commission, and the amount of the federal Pell Grant for which the student qualifies,
- (2) \$1,200 for students enrolled in community colleges,
- (3) \$6,000 for students enrolled in barbering and cosmetology colleges and programs,

(3) (4) An award amount established by the commission that allows all eligible applicants to receive an award.

b. and c. No change.

13.4(3) Awarding process.

a. The commission will provide notice of the eligibility criteria and maximum award to participating ~~Iowa community~~ colleges annually to authorize awarding.

b. The commission will designate eligible applicants for awards and provide ~~Iowa community colleges~~ participating institutions with rosters of designated eligible applicants.

c. ~~Iowa community colleges~~ Participating institutions will notify recipients of the awards, clearly indicating the award amount and the state program from which funding is being provided and stating that the award is contingent on the availability of state funds.

d. ~~Iowa community colleges~~ Participating institutions will apply awards directly to student accounts to cover tuition and mandatory fees.

e. ~~Iowa community colleges~~ Participating institutions will provide information about eligible applicants to the commission in a format specified by the commission. ~~Iowa community colleges~~ Participating institutions will make necessary changes to awards due to a change in enrollment, program of study, and financial situation, and promptly report those changes to the commission.

f. ~~Iowa community colleges~~ Participating institutions are responsible for completing necessary verification and for coordinating other aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility requirements and allowable award amounts. ~~Iowa community colleges~~ Participating institutions will report changes in student eligibility to the commission.

g. The commission will periodically investigate and review compliance of ~~Iowa community colleges~~ participating institutions with the criteria established in Iowa Code section 256.192 and this rule.