

COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION[283]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 283—Chapter 28
“Teach Iowa Scholar Program”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 256.178 and 256.218
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 256.218

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 28 pursuant to 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, relating to the administration of the Teach Iowa Scholar Program. The amendments establish procedures for awarding scholarship funds appropriated by the General Assembly for eligible applicants teaching in qualifying rural school districts and ensure that program administration aligns with statutory funding priorities enacted by the legislature. The amendments further clarify eligibility and award distribution requirements necessary for the efficient administration of the program.

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 applicants, school districts, institutions of higher education, or other stakeholders. The amendments implement statutory changes enacted by 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, regarding the distribution of appropriated funds within the existing Teach Iowa Scholar Program. Any administrative costs associated with implementing the amendments are expected to be absorbed within existing resources.

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

The proposed amendments will benefit eligible teachers participating in the Teach Iowa Scholar Program, particularly those employed in qualifying rural school districts as defined in 2026 Iowa

Acts, House File 2783. By directing a portion of available funding for teachers in these districts, the amendments are intended to improve access to scholarship awards for educators serving in rural and geographically isolated areas.

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:**

The proposed amendments are expected to improve the geographic distribution of benefits under the Teach Iowa Scholar Program by directing a portion of available awards for teachers employed in qualifying rural school districts, as defined in 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783. This change is intended to enhance access to program benefits for educators serving in smaller and more geographically isolated communities.

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 amendments primarily update program administration to align with the requirements of 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, and are expected to 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 provisions of 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, relating to the administration and distribution of funds within the existing Teach Iowa Scholar Program and do not create or modify any taxes, fees, or other sources of State revenues.

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

The proposed amendments implement the requirements of 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, and provide the administrative framework necessary for the Commission to administer the Teach Iowa Scholar Program in accordance with State law. The anticipated benefits include improved clarity regarding program administration and the allocation of scholarship funds reserved for eligible teachers employed in qualifying rural school districts. The costs associated with the proposed amendments are expected to be minimal and limited to routine administrative activities that can be accommodated within existing Commission resources. Participating applicants and school districts are not anticipated to incur significant additional costs.

Inaction would result in the Commission's administrative rules not fully reflecting current statutory requirements. This could create uncertainty regarding program administration and the distribution of scholarship awards and could limit the Commission's ability to implement the legislative changes enacted in 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783. Therefore, the benefits of adopting the proposed amendments outweigh the minimal costs associated with implementation.

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 for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking. The amendments are necessary to implement the requirements of 2026 Iowa Acts, House File 2783, and to provide administrative procedures for the distribution of scholarship funds in accordance with statutory requirements.

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 burdens 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. Adopt the following **new** definition of “Rural school district,” in rule **283—28.1(256)**:

“*Rural school district*” means a district that is located in a city in Iowa with a population of less than 26,000 that is located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of greater than 50,000.

ITEM 2. Reletter paragraphs **28.2(3)“a”** and **28.2(3)“b”** as **28.2(3)“b”** and **28.2(3)“ c”**.

ITEM 3. Adopt the following **new** paragraph **28.2(3)“a”**:

a. Eligible applicants who work for a rural school district, until the funds that are appropriated for this purpose are awarded.