

**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION**

**CHAPTER 1640-01-29  
TENNESSEE MIDDLE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

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**1640-01-29-.01 INTRODUCTION.**

- (1) The Tennessee Middle College Scholarship Program, as authorized in T.C.A., Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, provides scholarships to high school students who attend a Middle College program.

**Authority:** T.C.A §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018. Amendments filed November 22, 2024; effective February 20, 2025.

**1640-01-29-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) Eligible Program of Study: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.
- (2) Full-time Student: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.
- (3) Middle College: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.
- (4) Semester: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.
- (5) TSAC: The term is defined in T.C.A. § 49-4-902.

**Authority:** T.C.A §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018. Amendments filed November 22, 2024; effective February 20, 2025.

**1640-01-29-.03 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNT.**

- (1) The Middle College Scholarship provides financial assistance to offset educational expenses for high school juniors and seniors who are pursuing an associate degree at an eligible Middle College.
- (2) The award amount for the program shall be determined in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-4-909 and shall be set in the General Appropriations Act. The amount of the Middle College award shall be based on the number of credit hours attempted in a semester that are applicable to the student's eligible program of study, not to exceed the full-time amount established in T.C.A. § 49-4-909. A student enrolled in nine (9), ten (10), or eleven (11) credit hours in an eligible program of study will receive three-fourths (3/4) of the full-time award. A student enrolled in six (6), seven (7), or eight (8) credit hours in the student's eligible program of study will receive one-half (1/2) of the full-time award.
- (3) The receipt of the Middle College Scholarship is contingent upon admission to and enrollment in an eligible Middle College program.

(Rule 1640-01-29-.03, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, 49-4-924, and 49-4-914. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018. Amendments filed November 22, 2024; effective February 20, 2025.

#### **1640-01-29-.04 APPLICATION PROCESS.**

- (1) Application deadline for the Middle College Scholarship shall be determined by the TSAC Executive Director and published on TSAC's website. It is the responsibility of the student to submit the application in a timely manner to ensure it is received by the published deadline. If the deadline occurs on a weekend or holiday, then the application deadline will be the next business day.
- (2) The TSAC Executive Director is authorized to modify published application deadlines for well-documented extraordinary cause if necessary to protect the public interest.
- (3) The Middle College Scholarship application shall serve as the only application. No additional application shall be required.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018. Amendments filed November 22, 2024; effective February 20, 2025.

#### **1640-01-29-.05 ELIGIBILITY.**

- (1) To be eligible for the Middle College Scholarship a student shall meet the requirements of T.C.A. § 49-4-909(a).
- (2) To continue to be eligible for the Middle College Scholarship, a student shall meet the requirements of T.C.A. § 49-4-909(b).

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

#### **1640-01-29-.06 TERMINATING EVENTS.**

- (1) A student may receive the Middle College Scholarship until reaching a terminating event as described in T.C.A. § 49-4-909(c).

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

#### **1640-01-29-.07 CERTIFICATION.**

- (1) Each eligible Middle College shall be responsible for certifying to TSAC that the student has met all eligibility requirements.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

#### **1640-01-29-.08 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**

- (1) Scholarship funds shall be disbursed to each eligible Middle College on behalf of students eligible for and enrolled in the program.
- (2) In no case shall funds be disbursed directly to students.

(Rule 1640-01-29-.08, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

**1640-01-29-.09 REFUNDS.**

- (1) If a recipient of a Middle College Scholarship fails to complete a semester for any reason, the eligible Middle College shall apply its refund policy to determine whether a refund may be required and funds returned to TSAC. The eligible Middle College shall provide the student with a notice indicating the amount to be returned to the student or the amount to be refunded to TSAC. Additionally, the eligible Middle College shall also be responsible for obtaining repayment from the student. The student shall be ineligible for student aid from TSAC until the refund is paid.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018.

**1640-01-29-.10 POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT.**

- (1) Enrollment at any ineligible postsecondary institution between graduation from Middle College and prior to enrollment at a four-year eligible postsecondary institution shall make a student permanently ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018. Amendments filed November 22, 2024; effective February 20, 2025.

**1640-01-29-.11 SUBSTITUTE COURSES.**

- (1) An eligible Middle College program may accept early postsecondary opportunity courses for purposes of determining enrollment as a full-time student and for associate degree graduation requirements, so long as postsecondary credit for such courses is not based on results from an end-of-course summative assessment.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-4-201, 49-4-909, and 49-4-924. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed April 3, 2018; effective July 2, 2018. Amendments filed November 22, 2024; effective February 20, 2025.