

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE:
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Change in DCTAG Application Deadline

Effective Date: August 7, 2020

I. Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to announce that the Office of State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) is removing the existing District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (“DCTAG”) application deadline date and setting a new application deadline of November 13th for the 2020-2021 school year and each subsequent year until further notice.

II. Background

DCTAG was created by the U.S. Congress in 1999 through the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-98) and amended by the DC College Access Improvement Act 2002 (P.L. 107-157) and DC College Improvement Act 2007 (P.L. 110-97). OSSE is responsible for administering the federally-funded DCTAG program that provides DC residents with up to \$10,000 per year toward the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition at public colleges and universities nationwide. The program also provides up to \$2,500 toward tuition at private nonprofit colleges and universities in the Washington, DC area and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) nationwide.

In-state public institutions provide more affordable access to postsecondary education for residents of that jurisdiction. Given the limited number of public postsecondary education options within the District of Columbia, DCTAG expands postsecondary education options for DC residents by enabling greater access to institutions of higher education. DCTAG provides critical financial assistance awards to District residents to attend eligible out-of-state institutions of higher education. Without access to DCTAG funding, many District students’ opportunities to enroll in a post-secondary educational path to complete a two- or four-year degree will be significantly reduced or denied.

Due to COVID-19, colleges and universities are contemplating different program options for students in the next school year, including learning in-person, online or a hybrid model. This lack of clarity regarding format and structure has made residents unsure as to whether they will attend school in the fall and/or in the spring. Consequently, many residents may not apply to institutions of higher education or to scholarship programs such as DCTAG on traditional timelines. Previously, DCTAG applicants were required to submit an application by June 30, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. To respond to the aforementioned lack of clarity around post-secondary program options, OSSE has twice extended the DCTAG application deadline in 2020. First, on May 29th, OSSE extended the application deadline from June 30th to July 23rd. OSSE then extended the deadline to September 7, 2020.

III. Authority

Sections 3(f)(2) and 5(e)(2) of the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999, approved November 12, 1999, (Pub. L. 106-98, D.C. Official Code §§ 38-2702(f)(2) and 38-2704(e)(4) (2012 Repl.)); Section 3(b)(11) of the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2602(b)(11)) (2012 Repl. and 2014 Supp.); Section 402(b) of the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Support Act of 2001, effective October 3, 2001, (D.C. Law 14-28); 29 DCMR § 7000.4; Mayor's Order 2000-138, dated September 7, 2000.

IV. Procedures

With this administrative issuance, OSSE is extending the DCTAG application deadline to November 13th. This deadline will remain for this and future award years until OSSE issues a new administrative issuance through publication in the DC Register and on its website.

SO ORDERED:

Hanseul Kang
State Superintendent
Office of the State Superintendent of Education