

**Office of the State Superintendent of Education  
Administrative Issuance  
Change in DCTAG Application Deadline**

**Effective Date: December 11, 2020**

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**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 September 17th for the 2021-2022 award 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.

Colleges and universities continue to adjust and amend their programming and policies due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This continued uncertainty has demanded financial aid organizations offer flexibility when possible to give residents the ability to make informed decisions about higher education. Last year OSSE extended the DCTAG application deadline three times to meet this need.

**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 382704(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 setting the DCTAG application deadline to September 17th. 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:***

Shana Young  
Interim State Superintendent  
Office of the State Superintendent