

2025



STUDY of the
**SC HIGHER EDUCATION
TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

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South Carolina House of Representatives **GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY & LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Chairman Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson

Vice-Chair Chris Wooten

AUTHORITY

The Legislative Oversight Committee, created in December 2014, is a vehicle for oversight used by the House of Representatives. The Committee's specific task is to conduct legislative oversight studies and investigations of state agencies at least once every seven years. The Committee has the authority to conduct studies at any time of state agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction, even outside of the seven-year cycle.

VISION

For South Carolina agencies to become, and continuously remain, the most effective state agencies in the country through processes which eliminate waste and efficiently deploy resources thereby creating greater confidence in state government.

MISSION

Determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. Inform the public about state agencies.



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South Carolina Higher Education TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION

HISTORY ¹

In 1970, the General Assembly passed a bill that created the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission, an agency that was charged with the responsibility of administering the Tuition Grants Program for state residents attending in-state independent college. Governor Robert E. McNair signed the bill on May 1, 1970.

The original appropriation was \$5,000 and no awards were made the first year. In 1971-72, the first awards were made as the program aided 43 students. In its second year of awards, 1972-73, a total of 134 students received grants. Now, after over 50 years in operation, the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is awarding in excess of \$50 million to just over 12,000 students annually. Since its inception in 1970, over 500,000 Tuition Grant awards totaling over \$1.2 billion have been made to South Carolinians attending the college of their choice.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY ²

The General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, during the 1970 session, passed Act 1191 creating the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission. This Commission was created as a State agency charged with the responsibility for overseeing the operation of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program.

MISSION ³

The mission of the SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is to provide access and opportunity for more South Carolinians to pursue a postsecondary education by providing need-based tuition grants to students who choose an independent higher education.

PROGRAM GOALS ⁴

The primary goals associated with the agency's mission are:

To provide eligible South Carolinians with the choice to attend the college that best meets their individual academic needs.

To preserve the dual system of public and private higher education in our state, which provides healthy competition and innovation among all sectors.

To help offset the cost of attending an independent college or university, just as the state offsets the tuition costs of residents attending its public colleges.

To support optimal use of college facilities available at independent colleges and universities throughout the state.

To save the state tax dollars that would otherwise be appropriated at a higher cost, via state subsidies to public colleges, if students choosing to receive an independent higher education migrated into the public college system.

MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD ⁵

The maximum South Carolina Tuition Grant amount for all eligible full-time students will be \$5,000 for the 2025-2026 Award Year. Eligibility is based on financial need, which is calculated by taking the total Cost of Attendance (COA) of the institution the student attends and subtracting the Student Aid Index (SAI) determined by the FAFSA.

$$\text{COA} - \text{SAI} = \text{NEED}$$

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ⁶

In order to qualify for a South Carolina Tuition Grant, students must:

01

Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually by the August 1st Tuition Grants application deadline

02

Have Financial Need as demonstrated by the information provided on the FAFSA. Financial Need is determined by taking the total Cost of Attendance (COA) of your institution and subtracting the Student Aid Index (SAI) which is calculated based on the information provided on the FAFSA: (COA-SAI=Need)

03

Meet South Carolina residency requirements in accordance with the South Carolina Residency Regulations

04

Independent students or the parent(s) of dependent students, must be a legal South Carolina resident domiciled in the State for a period of not less than 12-months prior to the start of the Fall Semester

05

Enroll full-time (at least 12 eligible credit-hours per semester) at one of the 21, eligible by law, independent colleges and universities in the State, as a degree-seeking, undergraduate student who has not yet received a bachelor's degree

06

Meet all eligibility requirements for federal (Title IV) financial aid programs, including completing the Verification process, if selected. Please contact your financial aid office for information concerning your Title IV eligibility

07

Complete the required State Felony, Drug and Alcohol Affidavit annually, via your college's State Affidavit collection process

08

Meet the Tuition Grants Program's academic requirements: **First time Freshman** must have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED or Adult Education Diploma) and be fully admitted as a degree-seeking student based on the college's academic requirements for admission; **Returning students** must be meeting the college's Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.

FINDINGS

During the study of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission (Commission), the Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the House Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee) adopts 15 findings.

Findings note information a member of the public or General Assembly may seek to know or on which they may desire to act.

FINDING 1

The South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission's purpose is to help offset the cost of attending a state independent college or university.⁷

In 1970, the South Carolina General Assembly established the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission through Act 1191,⁸ signed into law by Governor Robert E. McNair. Recognizing the importance of ensuring broad access to postsecondary education, the state created the Commission to administer a need-based tuition grant program specifically for South Carolina residents attending in-state, independent colleges and universities. The Commission's core purpose is to help offset the cost of attendance, ensuring that financial limitations do not prevent students from choosing the institution that best meets their academic goals.⁹

FINDING 2

The Commission currently has four FTEs but has an authorization total of five FTEs. Since the early 2000s the agency has maintained four FTEs, with a fifth authorized FTE position vacant since 2001.¹¹

Since the early 2000s, the agency has consistently maintained only four active staff members, with a fifth authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) position remaining vacant since 2001.¹² While the Commission has managed to sustain its operations and uphold its mission with this lean workforce, the long-term vacancy raises important questions about organizational capacity, future planning, and the ability to adapt to growing administrative and compliance demands.

The Commission's responsibilities extend beyond processing grant applications. Staff are tasked with coordinating closely with independent colleges across the state,¹³ completing statutorily required reporting,¹⁴ responding to legislative and audit inquiries,¹⁵ maintaining financial accountability, and keeping pace with changes in state and federal financial aid policy. The agency's ability to operate efficiently with only four staff members reflects a high level of commitment and resourcefulness. While a lean administrative staff can streamline operations, it may also limit the agency's capacity to achieve certain goals, such as enhancing the customer experience¹⁶



FINDING 3

The Commission is governed by eight representatives of the 21 qualifying independent colleges and universities.¹⁷ These representatives serve terms of three years, with membership of the commission rotating among the participating institutions. In addition, one ex officio member serves on the Commission: the chief executive officer of the State Commission on Higher Education or his designee.¹⁸

By incorporating rotating membership from a diverse group of institutions, the Commission draws on a wide range of perspectives, expertise, and experiences, maintaining a clear line of communication between independent colleges, state government, and the public. Through this structure, the Commission promotes collaborative leadership that supports access, affordability, and sustainability in South Carolina's private college sector.

This governance framework also balances representation from independent colleges with oversight that links to the state's higher education goals and compliance with statute.¹⁹ This structure helps the Commission remain responsive to the needs of students and stakeholders alike by supporting the Commission's ability to anticipate and respond to future challenges, implement innovative solutions, and modernize eligibility criteria to ensure that programs remain equitable and sustainable.²⁰

FINDING 4

Since its founding in 1970, the Commission has had four agency directors. With the exception of the second director, each director has been promoted from within the agency.²²

The Commission has demonstrated a pattern of leadership continuity and internal advancement throughout its history. Since 1976, the Commission has had only four executive directors over its 55 years of history. Notably, three of the four directors were promoted from within the agency, reflecting an organizational culture that values institutional knowledge and long-term commitment.

Mr. R. Laine Ligon served as the Commission's first agency head, assuming the title of Director effective July 1, 1975,²³ after previously serving as Program Coordinator. He led the agency for more than five years. Upon his retirement, Edward M. Shannon III was appointed Executive Director on September 1, 1980.²⁴ Mr. Shannon was the only director hired externally, although he came with relevant experience, having previously worked in the financial aid office of one of the state's independent colleges and universities. He went on to serve in the role for 28 years.

In October 2008, Earl L. Mayo, Jr. was promoted from Deputy Director to Executive Director following Shannon's retirement. Mr. Mayo had a total of 25 years of service with the agency and held the agency head position for over eight years.²⁵

Most recently, Katherine H. Stevens was promoted from Deputy Director to Executive Director on June 30, 2017, upon Mayo's retirement. Director Stevens has more than 15 years of service with the agency and has served as Executive Director for over seven years.²⁶

TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION MEMBERS ²¹

Dr. Boone Hopkins,
Chair
Converse University
Spartanburg, SC

Dr. Dwaun Warmack,
Vice Chair
Claflin University
Orangeburg, SC

Dr. John Dozier,
Secretary
Columbia College
Columbia, SC

Dr. Earnest McNealy
Allen University
Columbia, SC

Dr. Bruce McAllister
Bob Jones University
Greenville, SC

**Dr. Pamela Richardson-
Wilks**
Clinton College
Rock Hill, SC

Dr. Natalie Harder
Coker University
Hartsville, SC

Dr. Elizabeth Davis
Furman University
Greenville, SC

Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez,
Ex-Officio
SC Commission on Higher
Education
Columbia, SC

FINDING 5

The Commission currently has 21 participating independent colleges and universities. To qualify, a college must be a non-profit, independent institution with its main campus and headquarters in South Carolina, and be either SACS-accredited or a bachelor's-level school chartered before 1962.²⁷

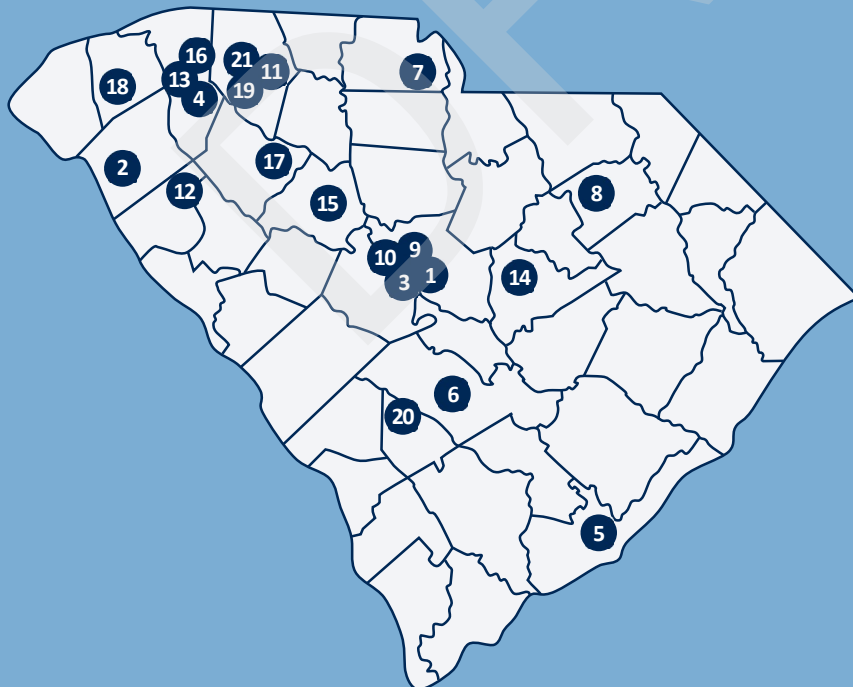
Currently, the Commission has 21 participating independent colleges and universities throughout the state.²⁸ The institutions include; Allen University, Anderson University, Benedict College, Bob Jones University, Charleston Southern University, Claflin University, Coker University, Columbia College, Columbia International University, Converse University, Erskine College, Furman University, Morris College, Newberry College, North Greenville University, Presbyterian College, Southern Wesleyan University, Spartanburg Methodist College, Voorhees University, and Wofford College.

An institution must meet certain requirements to participate in the Tuition Grants program. These criteria include: “(1) independent eleemosynary junior or senior college in South Carolina whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina and which

is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; or (2) independent bachelor's level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina.”²⁹ These qualifications ensure that participating institutions maintain academic rigor and a commitment to serving South Carolina's higher education needs.

These criteria have allowed the Commission to build partnerships with a diverse set of colleges and universities that reflect the cultural, geographic, and academic variety of South Carolina. From longstanding liberal arts institutions to faith-based colleges and comprehensive universities, these schools provide a broad range of programs and pathways for students seeking a private college experience in the state.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATING IN TUITION GRANTS PROGRAM ³⁰



1. Allen University
2. Anderson University
3. Benedict College
4. Bob Jones University
5. Charleston Southern University
6. Claflin University
7. Clinton College
8. Coker University
9. Columbia College
10. Columbia International University
11. Converse University
12. Erskine College
13. Furman University
14. Morris College
15. Newberry College
16. North Greenville University
17. Presbyterian College
18. Southern Wesleyan University
19. Spartanburg Methodist College
20. Voorhees University
21. Wofford College

FINDING 6

The value of the tuition grant has declined as the average tuition and fees of the independent colleges and universities have increased. In the 1973-1974 academic year, the grant covered approximately 81% of tuition and fees.³¹ By the 2023-2024 academic year, that percentage dropped to 16.06%.³²

In the 1973–1974 academic year, the average Tuition Grant covered approximately 81%³³ of tuition and fees for eligible students attending private institutions. This level of coverage provided substantial financial support, making independent higher education broadly accessible to many South Carolina students. During this early period, tuition and fees were relatively low compared to current levels, and the number of students receiving grants was modest, with 3,173 awardees in 1973.³⁴ As the program progressed through the 1980s and 1990s, tuition and fees began increasing at a sharper pace.³⁵

Although Tuition Grants also increased, their growth lagged behind the rising costs of education. This imbalance caused the percentage of tuition and fees covered by the grants to decline steadily. By the 2000–2001 academic year, Tuition Grants covered just 21.25% of average tuition and fees,³⁶ representing a steep drop from earlier levels. This downward trend continued into the 21st century. From 2001 onward, Tuition Grants have covered between

11% to 17% of tuition and fees,³⁷ fluctuating annually but never approaching the coverage seen in the program’s early years.

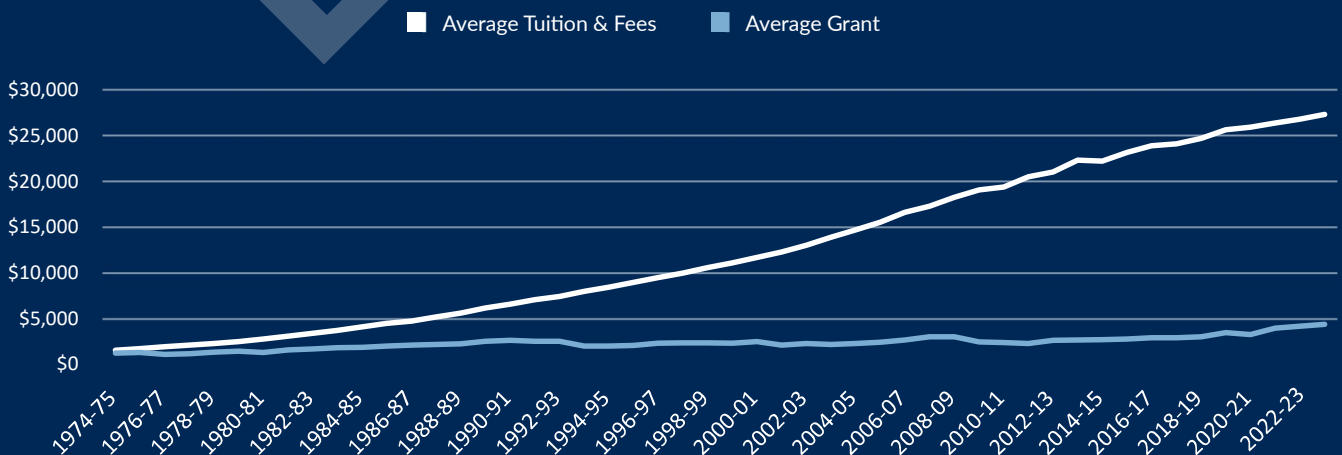
Notably, the number of students receiving Tuition Grants also increased dramatically, peaking at around 14,451 recipients in 2010 and remaining above 12,000 in recent years.³⁸ This increase in awardees underscores a growing demand for financial aid even as the grants relative value declined.³⁹ However, by the 2023–2024 academic year, the percentage of tuition and fees covered by the average Tuition Grant had declined sharply to just 16.06%.⁴⁰

Despite the rising tuition costs, Tuition Grant award amounts have remained relatively stagnant because they are tied to annual state appropriations that have not kept pace with tuition inflation. The growing gap between aid and the cost of tuition has led to greater unmet financial need for students. In some instances, students may need loans, which may limit opportunities to attend a state independent college or university.

TUITION GRANTS AWARDED PER YEAR ⁴¹

2023-24	12,473
2022-23	12,036
2021-22	11,262
2020-21	12,202
2019-20	12,817
2018-19	13,534
2017-18	13,588
2016-17	13,214
2015-16	13,340
2014-15	13,346
2013-14	13,498
2012-13	13,881
2011-12	14,192
2010-11	14,451
2009-10	14,200
2008-09	12,801
2007-08	12,461
2006-07	11,735
2005-06	11,869
2004-05	12,025
2003-04	12,004
2002-03	11,586
2001-02	10,852
2000-01	10,152
1999-00	9,908
1998-99	9,800
1997-98	9,412
1996-97	9,321
1995-96	8,950
1994-95	8,428
1993-94	8,371
1992-93	6,606
1991-92	6,694
1990-91	6,816

AVERAGE TUITION & FEES VS. AVERAGE GRANT ⁴²



FINDING 7

The Commission has three primary funding sources: General Fund appropriations; South Carolina State Education Lottery allocations; and Children's Endowment Fund allocations.⁴³ Funding from these sources totaled \$62.2 million in FY 2024.⁴⁴

The Commission relies on three primary sources of funding: appropriations from the South Carolina General Fund, allocations from the South Carolina Education Lottery, and contributions from the Children's Endowment Fund.⁴⁵ In Fiscal Year 2024, the total funding available from these combined sources amounted to approximately \$62.2 million.⁴⁶ However, if these appropriations were to be reduced or diverted to non-aid related purposes, the Commission would be unable to sustain recent momentum. Without replacement funding, such a shift would have immediate and severe consequences for students. Specifically, the Commission projects that the average Tuition Grant would be reduced by more than 50% per recipient.⁴⁷ A cut of this nature would significantly erode the financial support available to low- and middle-income South Carolina students attending independent institutions.⁴⁸

PROGRAM FUNDING 2023-24 ⁴⁹

General Fund Appropriations.....	\$27,558,624
Education Lottery Allocations	\$19,930,000
Children's Education Endowment Fund	\$14,765,740
Interest Earned for Tuition Grants	\$406,672
Total Grants Program Funding	\$62,661,036

Total Administrative Costs \$905,064*

**Total administrative costs were just 1.5% of the total agency appropriation.*

FINDING 8

The Commission adopted a strategic plan in 2020, which aims to maintain program integrity, expand its impact, advocate for recipients, modernize processes, and ensure top-level data security.⁵⁰

In 2020, the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission adopted strategic goals to improve program accessibility, efficiency, and impact.⁵¹ The Commission began modernizing its application process by moving key forms online, allowing students to submit documents from any device and reducing delays associated with mailed forms. To strengthen legislative support, the Commission provided each General Assembly member with annual, password-protected reports showing Tuition Grant recipients and total funding by district. This transparency highlighted the program's value while safeguarding personal data under strict security protocols.⁵²

The agency has advocated for regular increases in the maximum award to enhance affordability,⁵³ especially for the neediest students, and emphasized taxpayer savings from students attending eligible independent institutions rather than public colleges. Addressing equity in state aid remained a priority, as funding for need-based grants lagged behind merit-based scholarships. The Commission also prioritized protection of personally identifiable information (PII)⁵⁴ through regular system upgrades, coordination with the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS), and legislative requests for cybersecurity funding.

These strategies demonstrated the Commission's efforts to expand access, improve efficiency, support equity, and protect public trust, ensuring the Tuition Grants Program continued to function as a key component of South Carolina's educational and economic framework.⁵⁵

FINDING 9

The Commission has key partnerships with federal and state entities, which ensures students in South Carolina have adequate access to grants. Counterparts include the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Office, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, the South Carolina Department of Education, and high schools across the state.⁵⁶

The Commission has built and sustained a network of partnerships with federal agencies, state entities, and local educational institutions that collectively enhance student access to higher education funding. These relationships are central to the Commission's mission of providing need-based financial assistance to South Carolina residents attending eligible independent colleges within the state.

At the federal level, the Commission partners with the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Office.⁵⁷ The Commission relies on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA⁵⁸) as the official application for determining Tuition Grant eligibility. This integration ensures that financial need is assessed using a nationally recognized standard, enabling accurate and timely award determinations.⁵⁹ The federal relationship also facilitates secure data sharing, compliance with federal regulations, and alignment with national financial aid policies.

At the state level, the Commission works closely with the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE⁶⁰) and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE⁶¹) to strengthen the delivery of student financial aid.

Collaboration with the CHE include, partnering on outreach and advocacy events for College Goal SC,⁶² Higher Education Day⁶³ at the State House, and College and Career Decision Day,⁶⁴ to expand awareness of funding opportunities and encourage college enrollment. Engagement with SCDE provides additional data and policy coordination to support high school outreach and readiness initiatives. Through this partnership, the Commission receives a list of all K–12 public high school seniors statewide and uses this information to maintain a FAFSA Completion Portal.⁶⁵

Local partnerships, particularly with high schools, are an equally important element of the Commission's operations. The Commission maintains relationships with school counselors across all 46 counties to ensure that information on Tuition Grant eligibility, FAFSA completion, and application deadlines reach students and families in time to secure funding.⁶⁶ Through presentations, counselor training, and direct communications,⁶⁷ the Commission strengthens college-ready pathways and removes barriers to application completion, particularly for students in underserved and rural areas.

FINDING 10

The award amounts for the state's merit-based scholarship programs (i.e., Palmetto Fellows Scholarship,⁶⁸ LIFE Scholarship,⁶⁹ and HOPE Scholarship⁷⁰), are established by statute and have not been changed in approximately 20 years. Although not administered by the Commission, stagnant scholarship awards directly affect Tuition Grant recipients at independent colleges.

The Commission does not administer the state's merit-based scholarship programs,⁷¹ but the awards significantly impact students attending South Carolina's independent colleges, many of whom depend on both merit aid and Tuition Grants to finance their education. The Commission on Higher Education administers three primary merit-based scholarships.⁷² These merit-based scholarship programs include: the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, the LIFE (Legislative Incentive for Future Excellence) Scholarship, and the HOPE Scholarship. Each is established by statute⁷³ and designed to encourage academic achievement and keep high-performing students in-state for college.

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship⁷⁴ is awarded to students who meet high academic standards, including GPA, class

rank, and SAT/ACT criteria. The LIFE Scholarship⁷⁵ is more broadly available to students who meet certain GPA and test score criteria, or a higher GPA alone. The HOPE Scholarship⁷⁶ is a one-time award available to first-year students who do not qualify for the other two programs but still demonstrate academic promise. While these scholarships provide meaningful support, their award amounts have not been increased in nearly two decades, despite consistent growth in tuition costs. This has led to a steady decline in their relative value.

For students attending independent institutions, who often combine these scholarships with Tuition Grants to manage costs, the lack of adjustment has widened the gap between financial aid and actual college expenses.

FINDING 11

Since the 1994-1995 academic year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA⁷⁷) has been used as the official application for students applying for grants through the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission. Any South Carolina resident that completes a FAFSA form, and lists at least one of the participating colleges and universities, is automatically reviewed for eligibility for Tuition Grants.⁷⁸

FAFSA is a standardized federal form used to assess a student's financial need by collecting information about the student's and their family's financial circumstances. By completing the FAFSA,⁷⁹ students are automatically considered for various forms of financial aid, including federal grants, loans, and work-study opportunities. In South Carolina, the FAFSA serves as the sole application for Tuition Grants. Any resident who completes the FAFSA and lists at least one participating South Carolina institution is automatically reviewed for eligibility.⁸⁰ This process eliminates the need for a separate state-specific application, reducing administrative burdens for both applicants and the Commission.

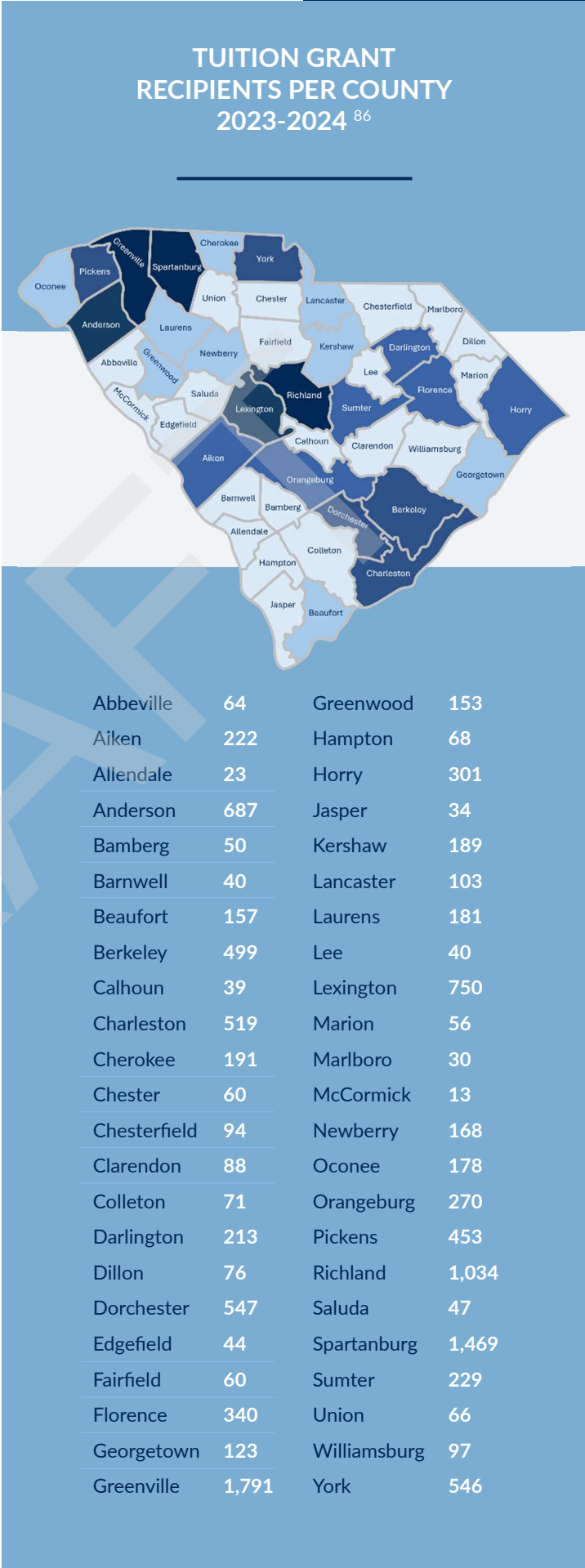
For the 2023–2024 academic year, the Commission awarded approximately \$55 million in Tuition Grants to over 12,000⁸¹ eligible students. The maximum grant amount for that year was set at \$4,800 per student,⁸² the highest in the program's history. These grants are available to students attending eligible independent nonprofit colleges and universities in South Carolina on a full-time basis.⁸³ By leveraging a standardized federal application, the Commission ensures consistent eligibility determinations and provides timely support to students pursuing higher education within the state.

FINDING 12

Grant award recipients represent all forty-six counties within the State.⁸⁴

The statewide distribution of Tuition Grant recipients demonstrates the program's extensive reach and its role in supporting access to higher education for students across South Carolina. The Commission awarded grants to students representing all forty-six counties, including urban centers, suburban communities, and rural areas. This distribution reflects not only the geographic reach of the program but also the demographic diversity of the students served, encompassing a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, family income levels, and educational pathways.⁸⁵

By providing funding to students across the entire state, the program helps reduce financial barriers to postsecondary education, supports enrollment in independent nonprofit colleges and universities, and contributes to the development of a well-prepared and diverse workforce. The program's reach into every county also showcases its capacity to support students in areas that may have historically had limited access to higher education resources.



FINDING 13

Agency staff spend over 40 hours annually assisting with or hosting financial aid sessions.⁸⁷

Each year, Commission staff dedicate more than 40 hours to assisting with or hosting financial aid sessions for students, parents, and school personnel.⁸⁸ These sessions, often conducted in collaboration with high schools, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and community organizations, are designed to guide prospective college students through the complex process of applying for need-based aid.

While 40 hours may represent a modest portion of the agency's annual workload, the impact of this outreach is significant. Given the agency's small size, this level of outreach reflects a deliberate commitment to going beyond standard administrative duties. Staff members travel to schools across all 46 counties and in FY 2023-2024, the Commission engaged over 800 total stakeholders.⁸⁹ The Commission reaches many students in rural and underserved communities, offering virtual question-and-answer sessions for families unable to attend in person and delivering personalized guidance that can mean the difference between a completed application and a missed opportunity.⁹⁰ These efforts also strengthen relationships with high school counselors⁹¹ who use the agency's FAFSA Completion Portal to monitor student progress and provide targeted support when needed.

FINDING 14

The Commission markets its grant program through the following methods: (1) sharing digital flyers with high schools and supporting events organized by the Commission on Higher Education; and (2) providing program information at the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA⁹²) Annual Conference⁹³ delivering program updates to high school counselors at workshops hosted by Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO⁹⁴) and the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA⁹⁵).

One of the primary methods the Commission uses to communicate information about the program is the distribution of digital flyers directly to high schools across the state.⁹⁶ These materials are designed to provide timely and accessible information about application processes, eligibility criteria, and funding availability. In addition to these digital communications, the Commission supports events organized by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education by participating in activities intended to reach students, families, and educational stakeholders in multiple regions of the state.⁹⁷

The Commission's outreach efforts extend beyond direct communication with students. The agency actively engages with professional associations and organizations that serve educators and administrators involved in postsecondary planning.⁹⁸ For example, the Commission participates annually in the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA⁹⁹) Annual Conference, a key forum for sharing program updates, addressing questions, and providing guidance on best practices for assisting students with financial aid. Furthermore, the Commission offers program updates and guidance to high school counselors through workshops and events hosted by the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO¹⁰⁰) and the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA¹⁰¹). These efforts help ensure that counselors are well-informed and equipped to guide students in navigating the application process and understanding grant eligibility.

FINDING 15

As part of the state's annual budget process, each agency must identify a 3% General Fund reduction in case strategic budget cuts are required. For the Commission, a 3% reduction in FY25-26 amounts to \$847,570.

During the annual state budget process, agencies are required to identify a potential 3% reduction in their General Fund appropriations. This requirement ensures that agencies are prepared to implement strategic budget cuts if necessary, while maintaining oversight of critical programs and services. For the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission, a 3% reduction in fiscal year 2025-2026 would amount to \$847,570¹⁰², based on current General Fund allocations.

The Commission's form E portion of their FY26 *Budget Plan Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency* outlines the anticipated effects of such a reduction on the Tuition Grant program¹⁰³. If enacted, the 3% cut would be applied proportionally across all student awards¹⁰⁴, resulting in an estimated decrease of approximately \$70 per recipient¹⁰⁵. This reduction would impact over 12,400 students¹⁰⁶ across South Carolina who rely on Tuition Grants to help finance their postsecondary education at eligible independent colleges and universities. Even a modest reduction of this magnitude could have a meaningful effect on students' overall financial aid packages. For many recipients, a \$70 decrease in grant funding may require the use of additional personal funds, increased reliance on student loans, or other alternative financing mechanisms, potentially contributing to higher student debt burdens..



RECOMMENDATIONS

During the study of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission (Commission), the Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the House Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee) adopts 7 recommendations.

With any study, the Committee recognizes these recommendations (e.g., continue, curtail, improve areas potentially, and/or eliminate agency programs, etc.) will not satisfy everyone nor address every issue or potential area of improvement at the agency. Recommendations are based on the agency's self-analysis requested by the Committee, discussions with agency personnel during multiple meetings, and analysis of the information obtained by the Committee. This information, including, but not limited to, the Initial Request for Information, Accountability Report, Restructuring Report, and videos of meetings with agency personnel, is available on the Committee's website.



RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider establishing a study committee to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of developing a comprehensive longitudinal data system to collect, store, and track information on South Carolina students during and after their progression through the K-12 system.

The purpose of this study committee is to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of establishing a longitudinal framework that links data across different stages of education. This includes evaluating the collection and integration of student-level data, ensuring secure storage and privacy protections, and developing mechanisms to track student outcomes over time. By examining best practices, potential challenges, and the overall impact of similar systems in other states, the study committee would provide the General Assembly with information that either supports or rejects implementation of this system.

The following states have successfully implemented statewide longitudinal data systems:

Virginia, Kentucky, and Mississippi each operate statewide longitudinal data systems that link education and workforce data to guide research and policy. Virginia’s Longitudinal Data System (VLDS¹⁰⁷) uses a model that keeps data within each agency’s

firewall while enabling secure analysis through cross-agency governance. Kentucky’s Longitudinal Data System (KLDS¹⁰⁸) integrates preschool, K–12, postsecondary, and workforce data under a P-20 council, with agencies retaining control of their data while collaborating on statewide reporting and research. Mississippi’s SLDS centralizes education, workforce, and human services data in a clearinghouse managed by Mississippi State University’s NSPARC,¹⁰⁹ overseen by a board representing all contributing agencies.

Establishing a study committee may provide a structured approach to evaluating feasibility, learning from other states’ experiences, and offering actionable recommendations to the General Assembly. Ultimately, such a system could enhance data-driven policymaking, improve student outcomes, and strengthen the ability of South Carolina education agencies to support students effectively throughout their academic and professional journeys.¹¹⁰

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee recommends the General Assembly consider implementing a legislative mandate requiring all South Carolina high school seniors to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA¹¹¹).

The recommended mandate would align South Carolina with other states.¹¹² FAFSA completion is the gateway to determining eligibility for federal, state, and institutional aid, including need-based grants, scholarships, and work-study programs, many of which do not require repayment.

Acknowledging that FAFSA can be complex, the recommendation underscores the importance of integrating structured FAFSA support into the school environment. This support should include

the allocation of dedicated class time to ensure students receive comprehensive, hands-on assistance in completing the application.

By integrating FAFSA assistance directly into the classroom, South Carolina could ensure that all students,¹¹³ not just those with strong support systems, are equipped to access available financial resources and pursue higher education with fewer financial constraints.

STATES THAT REQUIRE FAFSA COMPLETION ¹¹³

As of July 2024, 13 states require high school seniors to complete the FAFSA.

					
FIRST YEAR CLASS OF 2018	FIRST YEAR CLASS OF 2021	FIRST YEAR CLASS OF 2022	FIRST YEAR CLASS OF 2024	FIRST YEAR CLASS OF 2025	FIRST YEAR CLASS OF 2028
Louisiana	Illinois	Alabama Colorado Texas	California Connecticut New Hampshire	Indiana Nebraska New Jersey Oklahoma	Kansas

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Committee recommends the General Assembly consider increasing the state’s merit-based scholarship award amounts to account for historical increases in tuition and include an indexing metric to adjust for future inflation (e.g., Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), etc.).

As noted in Finding 10, the value of South Carolina’s merit-based scholarship programs has continued to diminish,¹¹⁵ as tuition and fees have steadily outpaced the annual needs-based award.¹¹⁶ Over time, this imbalance has weakened the intent of these programs, which is to make higher education more affordable and attainable for South Carolina residents. Without intervention, the gap between the cost of attendance and scholarship support will continue to widen, forcing students and families to assume a greater share of the financial burden. The Committee recommends tying

future award levels to a credible inflation index that reflects the true costs of higher education.

For example, the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI¹¹⁷) developed and maintained by the Commonfund Institute,¹¹⁸ has been a widely recognized measure of inflation for colleges and universities. HEPI is specifically designed to capture the unique expenditure patterns of higher education institutions.¹¹⁹

SOUTH CAROLINA FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS ¹¹⁹

Aid Program	Administered By	Type of Aid	FAFSA	Annual Award Amount	Information
SC Tuition Grant	Tuition Grants Commission	Primarily Need-Based	Yes	Up to \$4,800	Awarded directly by state agency
SC Need-Based Grant	Commission on Higher Education	Primarily Need-Based	Yes	Up to \$3,500	Awarded by institutions (public)
HOPE Scholarship	Commission on Higher Education	Merit-Based	No	\$2,800	Available freshman year only at 4-year colleges
LIFE Scholarship	Commission on Higher Education	Merit-Based	No	Up to \$5,000 (base)	Qualify by combination of GPA, standardized test scores, and class rank
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	Commission on Higher Education	Merit-Based	No	Up to \$7,500 (base)	Qualify by GPA, standardized test scores, and class rank
Lottery Tuition Assistance	Commission on Higher Education	Other	Yes (or waiver)	\$75 per credit hr.	Available only at technical colleges and 2-year colleges
Workforce & Industry Needs (WINS) Scholarship	SC Technical College System	Merit-Based	Yes (or waiver)	Up to \$5,000	Available only at technical colleges; good for one credential
National Guard Assistance Program	Commission on Higher Education	Primarily Need-Based	No	Up to \$11,000	Separate application process through CHE
Teaching Fellows Program	CERRA	Service-forgivable loan	No	Up to \$6,000	Loan is forgiven if teaching service requirement is met
SC Teacher Loan	SC Student Loan	Service-forgivable loan	No	Up to \$7,500	Loan is forgiven if teaching service requirement is met

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Committee recommends the agency develop a strategic marketing plan to inform non-traditional students (e.g., adult learners, GED recipients, working professionals, and re-entry students¹²¹) of the Tuition Grants program.¹²²

While the Commission has long supported access to higher education, awareness of the program among non-traditional populations remains limited. These students often face different barriers than traditional high school graduates, including competing family and work responsibilities, financial constraints, and apprehension about returning to school after time away. A deliberate marketing effort that speaks directly to these challenges can help ensure that non-traditional students see higher education as both attainable and worthwhile.

The Commission acknowledged that while the agency does not currently have a formal system to actively recruit these students, 14 participating institutions already offer programs tailored to adult learners, including evening, weekend, and online options.¹²³ The Commission further testified that between 8 and 10 percent¹²⁴ of current Tuition Grant recipients are non-traditional or adult learners, including students in their 70s who have enrolled through flexible course offerings.¹²⁵

RECOMMENDATION 5

The Committee recommends the agency review and update the agency strategic plan initiatives every 3-5 years, or as agency leadership deems necessary within that time frame.

As noted in Finding 8, the Commission established a strategic plan in 2020. The strategic plan has served as a guiding document, outlining principles such as maintaining program integrity, advocating for Tuition Grant recipients, increasing the impact of the program, and modernizing agency processes.¹²⁶ The Commission acknowledged that the strategic plan is now approaching the point where it should be reviewed and updated.¹²⁷

The Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that strategic initiatives remain timely, relevant, and responsive to evolving student needs, higher education trends, and state workforce priorities. To that end, the Committee recommends that the agency adopt a structured process for reviewing and updating its strategic plan every 3–5 years, with flexibility for leadership to initiate updates sooner if warranted. Incorporating a 3–5 year review cycle for strategic plan updates would ensure that the Tuition Grants Commission continues to operate with a forward-looking vision while remaining agile in addressing emerging challenges.

MODERNIZATION OF LAWS

RECOMMENDATION 6

The Committee recommends that the General Assembly amend S.C. Code Sections 59-143-10 and 59-143-30 to clarify the allocation of Higher Education Scholarship Grant funds to the Commission on Higher Education and the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission.

Currently, section 59-143-10¹²⁸ establishes the South Carolina Children's Education Endowment, a dedicated revenue stream intended to strengthen both K-12 and higher education. By statute,¹²⁹ 30 percent of the Endowment's funds are allocated to Higher Education Scholarship Grants, while the remaining 70 percent supports Public School Facilities Assistance. Section 59-143-30 has not been applied, largely due to ambiguous language that complicates consistent interpretation and implementation.

Section 59-143-30¹³⁰ outlines how the 30 percent allocated for Higher Education Scholarship Grants is divided between independent and public colleges and universities. For independent institutions, the statute requires allocations based on

each institution's share of resident undergraduate full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment. These funds are then subdivided, with half designated for Tuition Grants and half for Palmetto Fellows Scholarships. While the statute¹³¹ directs that the funds flow through the Commission on Higher Education and then be transferred to the Tuition Grants Commission, the current language does not explicitly define the exact mechanics of the transfer. To ensure statutory clarity, the Committee recommends striking out the language within the provisions of section 59-143-30 that reference the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, as the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) lacks the mechanisms to track the program's distribution.

RECOMMENDATION 7

The Committee recommends the General Assembly consider amending the S.C. Code Section 59-113-20¹³² by deleting subsection (f) and to permit students in good standing with a participating institution, and meeting all other requirements, to qualify for a tuition grant award.

Currently, section 59-113-20¹³³ outlines the eligibility criteria for students seeking Tuition Grants at independent colleges in South Carolina. Among these requirements are residency, enrollment status, and satisfactory academic progress as defined by the participating institution.

However, subsection (f) of section 59-113-20 permanently disqualifies students with a felony conviction from receiving a grant, regardless of when the conviction occurred or whether the individual has since demonstrated rehabilitation.¹³⁴ This provision creates a lasting barrier for individuals who may have committed offenses in their young adult years, served their sentences, and paid their debt to

society. By maintaining a permanent prohibition, the statute may prevent these individuals from pursuing higher education, which is often a critical factor in achieving stability, gainful employment, and community reintegration.

While the statute¹³⁵ allows students with multiple alcohol or drug related misdemeanors to regain eligibility after one academic year, no such opportunity exists for individuals with felony convictions, even when they are otherwise in good standing with their institutions. As a result, the current language disproportionately hinders individuals who are actively seeking to turn their lives around through education.

RECOMMENDATION 8

The Committee recommends the General Assembly consider amending S.C. Code Section 59-113-50, to update the definition of an independent institution of higher learning, specific to the independent institution being defined as must having been chartered before 1962.¹³⁶

Section 59-113-50 states the secondary definition of an independent institution of higher learning as an “independent bachelor’s level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina.”¹³⁷ The Committee recommends updating the statutory language to an “independent eleemosynary bachelor’s level institution in good standing with and authorized accrediting agency whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina.” This update would allow more institutions to participate in the Tuition Grants Program by eliminating the reference to a charter year, while maintaining standards expected of an independent institution of higher learning in South Carolina.

The American College of Building Arts in Charleston was founded in 2004¹³⁸ and, according to the Commission,¹³⁹ is the only institution that would otherwise qualify under the statutory criteria but is excluded solely due to the pre-1962 chartering

restriction. In 2004, the Commission on Higher Education (CHE¹⁴⁰) licensed the institution to recruit students for its Bachelor of Applied Science (four-year) and Associate of Applied Science (two-year) degrees in the building arts, programs that represent a distinctive and valuable contribution to higher education in the state.¹⁴¹

Updating the statutory language to remove the chartering year would ensure that this institution, and any others that may be established in the future, are not excluded solely based on date of charter. This would allow the Tuition Grants Program to remain aligned with South Carolina’s broader goals of supporting access to higher education, fostering workforce development, and expanding opportunities for students to pursue degrees at accredited independent institutions.

INTERNAL CHANGE

The Tuition Grants Commission has traditionally received funding from three primary sources: state General Fund appropriations, South Carolina Education Lottery revenue, and Higher Education Scholarship Grants supported by the Children's Education Endowment.

According to Sections 59-143-10 and 59-143-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the Children's Education Endowment was established to support both Higher Education Scholarship Grants and Public School Facility Assistance. Historically, the State Treasurer's Office (STO) allocated 30 percent of the Endowment's resources to scholarship grants and 70 percent to public school facilities. When funding for the Endowment ceased, the General Assembly began supporting Higher Education Scholarship Grants through General Fund appropriations.

This review found that the Children's Education Endowment Fund, managed by the STO, held an unexpended balance of approximately \$4.1 million. These funds remained unused for more than a decade until identified during the course of this study. The STO is now working to disburse the funds in accordance with statutory requirements.

Additionally, the Tuition Grants Commission and CHE have concluded that the statutory distribution formula outlined in Section 59-143-30 has not been applied, largely due to ambiguous language that complicates consistent interpretation and implementation. This report therefore includes a recommendation for legislative action to clarify and strengthen the statutory framework.



ENDNOTES

- ¹ <https://sctuitiongrants.org/about-us/>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ <https://sctuitiongrants.org/colleges/>
- ⁶ <https://sctuitiongrants.org/eligibility/>
- ⁷ <https://sctuitiongrants.org/about-us/>
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Feb 27, 2025 Video Presentation (00:13:47- 00:13:58).
- ¹² Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 77)
- ¹³ Participating Colleges and Universities- South Carolina Tuition Grants
- ¹⁴ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 81-82)
- ¹⁵ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 65-66)
- ¹⁶ April 29, 2025 Video Presentation (00:16:38- 00: 18:59)
- ¹⁷ Commission Members- South Carolina Tuition Grants
- ¹⁸ Section 59-113-10.Higher Education Tuition Grant Commission
- ¹⁹ Code of Laws- Title 59- Chapter 113- Tuition Grants
- ²⁰ Feb 27, 2025 Video Presentation (00:10:47- 00:12:40)
- ²¹ Commission Members- South Carolina Tuition Grants
- ²² Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 36)
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Feb 27, 2025 Video Presentation (01:00:25 – 01:01:33)
- ²⁷ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 42)
- ²⁸ Participating Colleges and Universities- South Carolina Tuition Grants
- ²⁹ Code of Laws- Title 59- Chapter 113- Tuition Grants
- ³⁰ Participating Colleges and Universities- South Carolina Tuition Grants
- ³¹ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 53)
- ³² SCHETGC ANNUAL REPORT 2324.pdf (Pg, 7)
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 54)
- ³⁵ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 56)
- ³⁶ SCHETGC ANNUAL REPORT 2324.pdf (Pg, 13)
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 55)
- ³⁹ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 57)
- ⁴⁰ SCHETGC ANNUAL REPORT 2324.pdf (Pg, 7)
- ⁴¹ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 57)
- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 61)
- ⁴⁴ SCHETGC ANNUAL REPORT 2324.pdf (Pg, 6)
- ⁴⁵ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 61)
- ⁴⁶ SCHETGC ANNUAL REPORT 2324.pdf (Pg, 6)
- ⁴⁷ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 61)
- ⁴⁸ April 29, 2025 Video Presentation (00:05:52- 00:06:50)
- ⁴⁹ SCHETGC ANNUAL REPORT 2324.pdf (Pg, 7)
- ⁵⁰ South Carolina-SCTG Strategic Plan (Pg. 1-3)
- ⁵¹ South Carolina-SCTG Strategic Plan (Pg. 4-5)
- ⁵² Ibid.
- ⁵³ FY24 Accountability Report Final.pdf (Pg.3)
- ⁵⁴ 2023-2024-South-Carolina-Tuition-Grants-Program-Policies-and-Procedures-Manual.pdf (Pg. 17-18)
- ⁵⁵ May 6, 2025 Video Presentation (01:32:00-01:32:59)
- ⁵⁶ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 40)
- ⁵⁷ Ibid.
- ⁵⁸ Home | Federal Student Aid
- ⁵⁹ February 27, 2025 Video Presentation (01:14:08-01:15:19)
- ⁶⁰ Home | CHE
- ⁶¹ About- South Carolina Department of Education M
- ⁶² College Goal SC student booklet REVISED.pdf
- ⁶³ Higher Education Day Participant Guide | CHE
- ⁶⁴ College And Career Decision Day | CHE
- ⁶⁵ February 27, 2025 Video Presentation (01:16:25-01:18:27)
- ⁶⁶ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg. 69)
- ⁶⁷ April 22, 2025 Video Presentation (00:09:37-00:09:55)
- ⁶⁸ Code of Laws- Title 59- Chapter 104- Initiatives For Research And Academic Excellence
- SC Code Section 59-104-20
- ⁶⁹ South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
- ⁷⁰ What is the SC HOPE Scholarship Program
- ⁷¹ Agency Title Page (Pg, 23)
- ⁷² May 6, 2025 Video Presentation (00:03:25-00:04:22)
- ⁷³ Code of Laws- Title 59- Chapter 104- Initiatives For Research And Academic Excellence
- ⁷⁴ South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
- ⁷⁵ South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
- ⁷⁶ What is the SC HOPE Scholarship Program
- ⁷⁷ Home | Federal Student Aid
- ⁷⁸ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 91)
- ⁷⁹ FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid
- ⁸⁰ May 6, 2025 Video Presentation (00:35:33-00:36:18)
- ⁸¹ FY23 Accountability Report Final.pdf (Pg. 11)
- ⁸² FY23 Accountability Report Final.pdf (Pg. 4)
- ⁸³ Frequently Asked Questions- South Carolina Tuition Grants
- ⁸⁴ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 48)
- ⁸⁵ Ibid.
- ⁸⁶ Ibid.
- ⁸⁷ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 105)
- ⁸⁸ Ibid.
- ⁸⁹ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg. 73)
- ⁹⁰ May 6, 2025 Video Presentation (00:39:00-00:41:30)
- ⁹¹ April 22, 2025 Video Presentation (00:09:40- 00: 10:52)
- ⁹² South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators- SCASFAA Detailed History
- ⁹³ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg, 107)
- ⁹⁴ South Carolina
- ⁹⁵ Home- South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)
- ⁹⁶ May 6, 2025 Video Presentation (00:31:02-00:32:41)
- ⁹⁷ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg. 107-108)
- ⁹⁸ May 6, 2025 Video Presentation (00:29:33-00:31:02)
- ⁹⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰⁰ Ibid.
- ¹⁰¹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰² FY26 H060- Tuition Grants Commission.pdf (Pg. 9)
- ¹⁰³ FY26 H060- Tuition Grants Commission.pdf (Pg, 9-10)
- ¹⁰⁴ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg. 114)
- ¹⁰⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁰⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁰⁷ VLDS
- ¹⁰⁸ Kentucky Center for Statistics- KYSTATS
- ¹⁰⁹ Home- NSPARC | National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center
- ¹¹⁰ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg. 92)
- ¹¹¹ Home | Federal Student Aid
- ¹¹² Increasing FAFSA Completion: Comparisons of Projects Across SREB States- Southern Regional Education Board
- ¹¹³ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg. 94)
- ¹¹⁴ Increasing FAFSA Completion: Comparisons of Projects Across SREB States- Southern Regional Education Board
- ¹¹⁵ 2024 Longitudinal Analysis Proviso 11.17.pdf
- ¹¹⁶ SCHETGC ANNUAL REPORT 2324.pdf (Pg. 13)
- ¹¹⁷ Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) | Commonfund
- ¹¹⁸ About Us | Commonfund | Asset Management
- ¹¹⁹ 2024 Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) Report Released
- ¹²⁰ Meeting Packet ONLINE 5.6.2025.pdf (Pg. 98-99)
- ¹²¹ April 22, 2025 Video Presentation (00:11:22- 00:12:24)
- ¹²² FY23 Accountability Report Final.pdf (Pg, 4)
- ¹²³ February 27, 2025 Video Presentation (01:24:11-01:25:50)
- ¹²⁴ Ibid.
- ¹²⁵ Ibid.
- ¹²⁶ South Carolina-SCTG Strategic Plan (Pg. 1-3)
- ¹²⁷ May 6, 2025 Video Presentation (01:32:00-01:32:58)
- ¹²⁸ Code of Laws- Title 59- Chapter 143- Children's Education Endowment
- ¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ [Code of Laws- Title 59- Chapter 143- Children's Education Endowment](#)

¹³¹ [Ibid.](#)

¹³² [Code of Laws- Title 59- Chapter 113- Tuition Grants](#)

¹³³ [Ibid.](#)

¹³⁴ [Ibid.](#)

¹³⁵ [Ibid.](#)

¹³⁶ Feb 27, 2025 Video Presentation at (00:39:15- 00:40:29)

¹³⁷ [SC Code Section 59-113-50](#)

¹³⁸ [History — American College of the Building Arts](#)

¹³⁹ February 27, 2025 Video Presentation (00:39:14-00:40:32)

¹⁴⁰ [Home | CHE](#)

¹⁴¹ [History — American College of the Building Arts](#)

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