

TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

Thursday, September 17, 2009

DECISION ITEM B: Change to TSAA Awarding Procedures

Staff Recommendation That the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation approve the way awards are made for the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA) program.

Background In order to provide grants to a greater number of financially-needy students, TSAC proposes that the TSAA awarding process be changed.

More students are completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) earlier each year. This means the number of students who are eligible, but do not receive an award due to limited funding, is increasing every year.

Additionally, funding for the TSAA is unstable. A non-recurring state appropriation of \$3.2 million for 2009-10 will need to be requested and approved again for funding to continue in the 2010-11 academic year.

There is also a proposal to replace the Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (SLEAP) Program with the Grants for Access and Persistence (GAP) Program. This proposal could have an impact on the amount of federal funding received by TSAC.

Supporting Document *Tennessee Student Assistance Award Proposed Changes, September 17, 2009.*