

The Millennium Scholarship and Investing in the Nevada System of Higher Education

For Presentation to the
Legislative Committee on
Education

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EXHIBIT C-1 - EDUCATION
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Today's Presentation

The Millennium Scholarship

- ❖ Background and eligibility criteria
- ❖ Student Outcomes
- ❖ The need for continued stability in eligibility criteria





The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

Background



Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

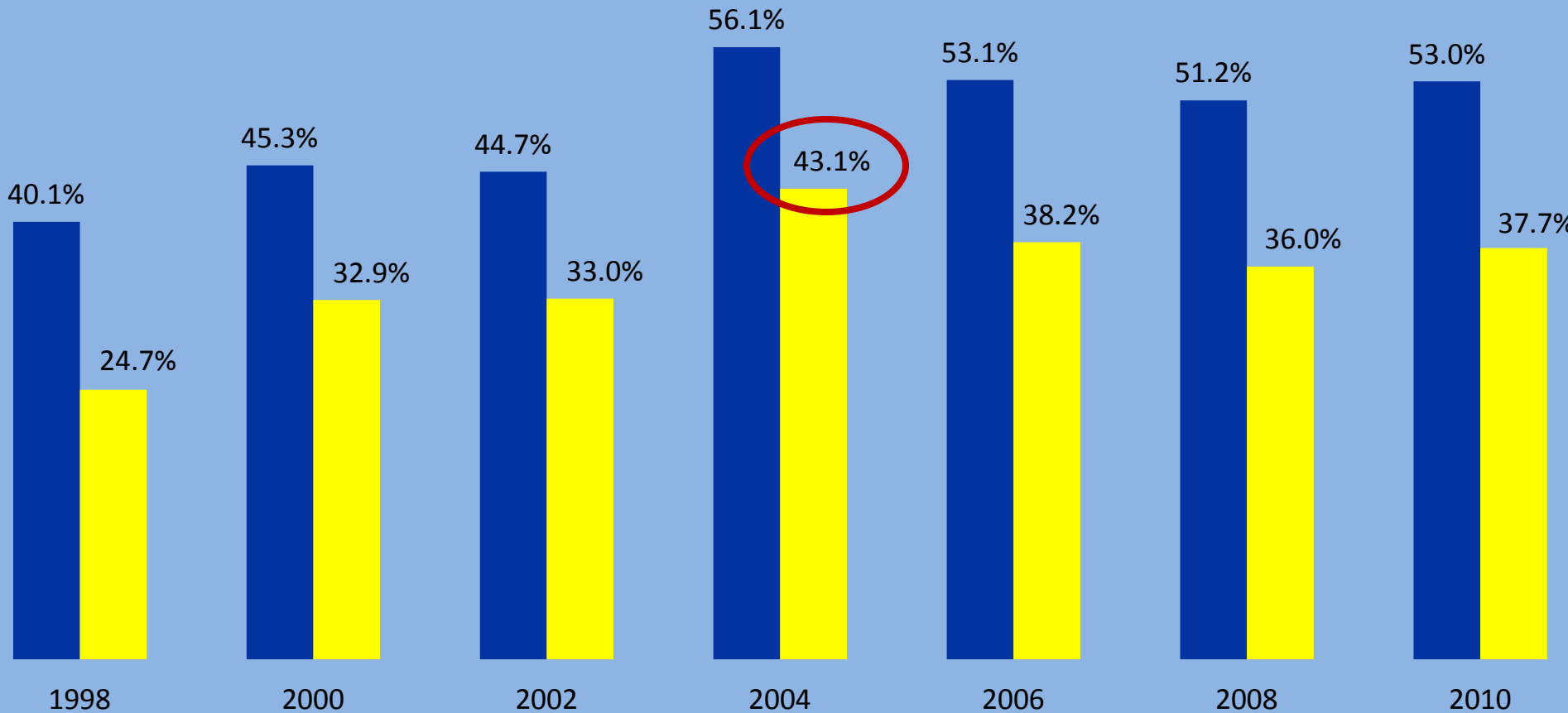
How it all started

The 1999 Session of the Nevada State Legislature, through its enactment of Senate Bill 496 (Chapter 496, *Statutes of Nevada 1999*) established the Millennium Scholarship. Then Governor Kenny Guinn and the Legislature declared their priorities in expending funds from the tobacco master settlement to include increasing the number of Nevada students who attend and graduate from Nevada institutions of higher education.

Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship



Percent of NV high school graduates enrolled as first-time, degree-seeking college students in the fall semester immediately following graduation



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Eligible Students and Activated Awards

	Class of					
	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
High School GPA Requirement	3.0	3.10	3.25	3.25	3.25*	3.25*
NV Public High School Graduates	12,953	16,367	17,080	18,715	20,082	20,901
MS Eligible Graduates	7,361	8,755	8,174	8,786	8,451	9,108
% Eligible	56.8%	53.5%	47.9%	46.9%	42.1%	43.6%
Activated Scholarships	5,657	6,194	5,677	5,947	5,565	5,345
% of Eligible Scholars who Activated	76.9%	70.7%	69.5%	67.7%	65.9%	58.7%

*GPA requirement plus completion of the core curriculum

Source: NV State Treasurer's Office; NV Department of Education

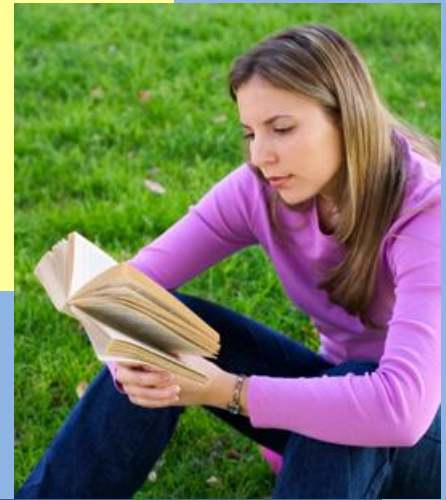


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Requirements for Initial Eligibility

- ✓ Graduate with a diploma from a **Nevada high school**;
- ✓ Pass all areas of the Nevada **High School Proficiency Exam**;
- ✓ Be a **resident** of Nevada for at least two high school years;
- ✓ Sign **affidavit** affirming legal residency in the United States;
- ✓ Completion of the **core courses** in high school (4 units of English, 4 units of math, 3 units of Natural Science, 3 units of Social Science and History); and
- ✓ **3.25** overall high school grade point average.

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The Process

- There is **no application** process – students are contacted by the Nevada Treasurer's Office if eligible
- **June** – high schools submit list of students identified as eligible to the Treasurer's Office
- **End of July** – Eligible students are sent an award packet from the Treasurer's Office with instructions on how to activate and utilize the Scholarship
- **August** – After certification of eligibility by NSHE, institutions begin disbursing fall funds to eligible students who have activated their scholarship

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Ever Changing Eligibility Requirements

	<u>Initial Eligibility</u> High School GPA Requirement
Class of 2000	3.0
Class of 2001	3.0
Class of 2002	3.0
Class of 2003	3.0
Class of 2004	3.0
Class of 2005	3.1
Class of 2006	3.1
Class of 2007	3.25
Class of 2008	3.25
Class of 2009 and beyond	3.25 plus completion of Millennium core courses in high school

Over time it became more and more difficult for students and parents to keep track of changes in eligibility requirements



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The Affidavit Affirming Legal Residency

All students need to **initial/check one box** affirming that they:

- Are a citizen of the United States; or
- Have a lawful immigration status; or
- Have filed an application to legalize their immigration status; or
- Will file an application to legalize their immigration status as soon as they are eligible to do so.



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Requirements for Continuing Eligibility

- ✓ Satisfactory **progress** toward a recognized degree or certificate; and
- ✓ Completion of either 6 credits at a community college or 12 credits at a university or state college with a **2.6 grade point average** per term on the first 29 credits, and a **2.75** per term thereafter.

“Two strike” rule - a student may only regain eligibility once

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Exceptions Established by the Legislature

- ✓ Students with a documented **physical or mental disability** are excluded from the credit requirements and time limitations, but not from the GPA requirements.
- ✓ Students who have been discharged from **active duty military** or who have participated in a **charitable, religious or public service assignment** may request an extension to the 6-year time limitation.
- ✓ Students who have a parent or legal guardian who on **active duty in the Armed Forces** and are residents of or stationed in Nevada are exempt from the 2-year residency requirement and the requirement to graduate from a Nevada high school.



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How much is the Scholarship?

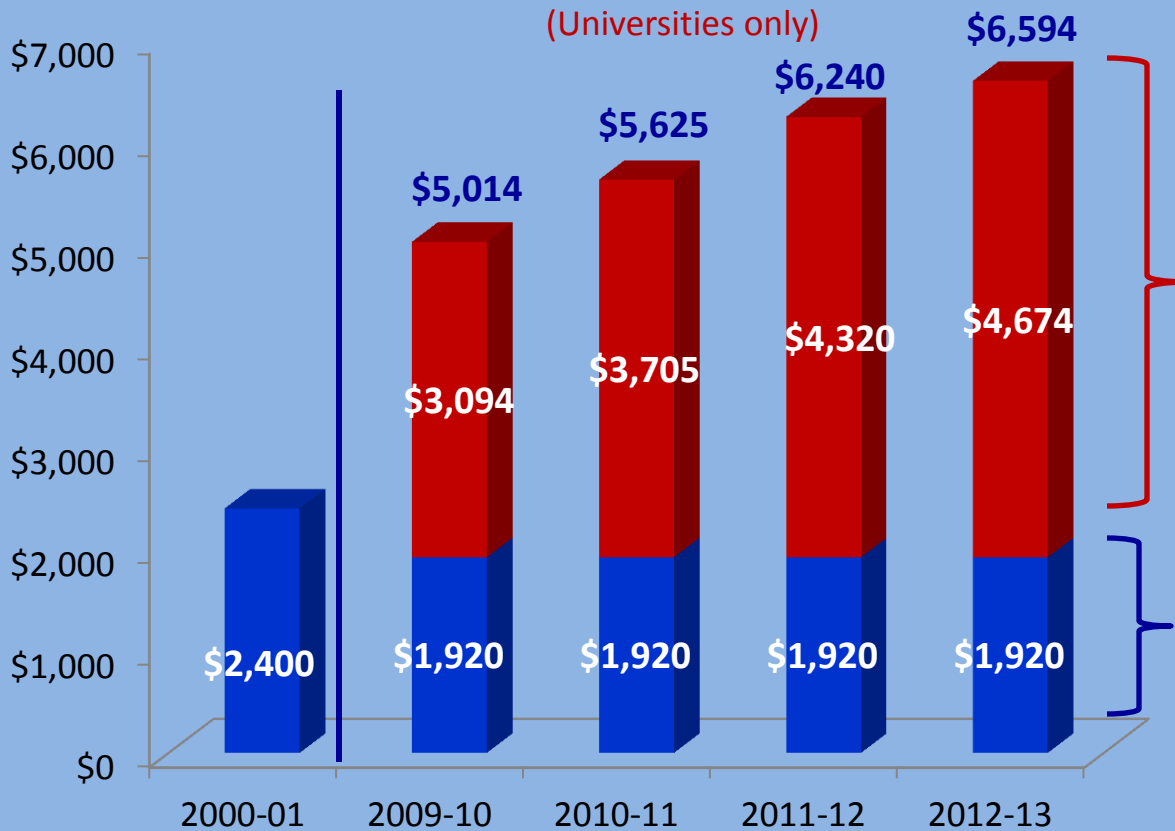
	Funding Level	Minimum Enrollment Level	Maximum Funding Level
Community College	\$40/credit	6 credits	12 credits
State College	\$60/credit	12 credits	12 credits
University	\$80/credit	12 credits	12 credits

\$10,000 maximum funding for each student.

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The Millennium Scholarship Portion of
Registration and Other Mandatory Fees



Uncovered cost to the student

The amount of the Millennium Scholarship for a university student is based on \$80 per credit, and since 2005 has been limited to 12 credits per semester.

This analysis assumes full-time enrollment at 30 credits per year, including the average cost of mandatory fees charged in addition to registration fees, compared to that portion of the cost covered by the Scholarship.

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Millennium Scholars ... Less Likely to Require Remediation

Recent Nevada High School Graduates Enrolling in at Least One Remedial Mathematics or English Course Immediately Following High School Graduation

	Millennium Scholars	Non-Millennium Scholars
2009	22.7%	41.4%
2010	27.3%	40.9%
2011	28.4%	39.4%



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Millennium Scholars ... More Likely to Persist in College

Freshman Persistence Rates to Spring Semester

First-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshman, entering Fall 2009

	Millennium Scholars	Non-Millennium Scholars
Community Colleges	83.0%	56.1%
Four-Year Institutions	94.9%	87.7%
NSHE	90.2%	59.6%

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Millennium Scholars ... More Likely to Graduate

University Graduation Rates		
First-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshman, entering Fall 2004		
	Millennium Scholars	Non-Millennium Scholars
Graduated within 6 years	47.2%	39.4%
Still Enrolled Spring 2010 but not graduated	18.4%	12.4%
Non-Completers	34.4%	48.2%



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A Program in Jeopardy?

In recent years, declining funds available from the tobacco settlement have put the Millennium Scholarship fund in jeopardy.

Recent Steps Taken to Sustain the Fund

\$10 million one-time infusion
and
Restoration of the **\$7.6 million** annually
from unclaimed property



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Eligibility Criteria

After several years of changes in the eligibility criteria, the program is predictable for students and their families.

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One more thing to consider . . .

Increase per credit amount

Restore the scholarship's value

