

§§2-5 -  
C.18A:71B-85.1  
to 18A:71B-85.4  
§9 –  
C.18A:71B-86.4a  
§10 - Note to  
§§1-9

P.L. 2008, CHAPTER 124, *approved December 19, 2008*  
Assembly, No. 3373 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs and  
2 amending and supplementing P.L.2004, c.59 and P.L.2005,  
3 c.359.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. Section 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 5. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover  
11 the full cost of tuition and fees, subject to the prior application of  
12 other grants and scholarships against those costs as provided under  
13 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, for up to **[15]** 18  
14 credit hours in any semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a  
15 full-time course of study at the New Jersey county college serving  
16 the student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student  
17 who demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria  
18 and by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish  
19 by regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of  
20 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to  
21 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey  
22 county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any  
23 scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college  
24 serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall  
25 be computed as though the student were a resident of the county  
26 served by that college, and the college shall likewise compute the  
27 amount of any additional payment, required with respect to the  
28 enrollment of that student for credit hours of study during a  
29 semester in which the scholarship is awarded that are not covered  
30 by that scholarship, as though the student were a resident of the  
31 county.

32 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ  
33 STARS Program for up to five semesters, including summer

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 8, 2008.

1 sessions. The scholarship shall be payable for the first year of  
2 enrollment in a county college to a student who:

3 (1) graduated in the top ~~【20%】~~ 15.0% of the student's high  
4 school graduating class, provided that in the case of students  
5 graduating from high schools that do not calculate the class rank of  
6 their students, the student's ranking shall be determined by the high  
7 school in consultation with the authority; and

8 (2) completed a rigorous high school course of study in  
9 accordance with standards established by the Commission on  
10 Higher Education in consultation with the Commissioner of  
11 Education.

12 During a student's enrollment in a county college after the first  
13 year of enrollment, the scholarship shall be payable to that student  
14 if the student attains a grade point average of at least 3.0 by the  
15 start of the student's second year of county college enrollment. A  
16 student who attains a grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start  
17 of the second semester of the student's first year of county college  
18 enrollment shall participate in an enrichment program designed by  
19 the county college during the second semester of the student's first  
20 year of enrollment.

21 c. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS  
22 Program a student shall:

23 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the  
24 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,  
25 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a  
26 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to  
27 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a  
28 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for an NJ  
29 STARS scholarship;

30 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and  
31 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of  
32 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be  
33 applied to tuition and fee charges to reduce the amount of any  
34 scholarship that the student shall receive under the provisions of  
35 this act;

36 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
37 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
38 this bill), be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey  
39 county college;

40 (4) have graduated from high school in 2004 or later, and not  
41 earlier than the calendar year two years prior to the first calendar  
42 year in which a scholarship payment is to be made; and

43 (5) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
44 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
45 this bill), maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of  
46 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a  
47 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave  
48 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave

1 shall have been approved by the county college, or unless called to  
2 partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a  
3 member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the  
4 Armed Forces of the United States.

5 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary  
6 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a  
7 scholarship under this act. If a student participating in the program  
8 is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full  
9 all amounts received under the program. The county college shall  
10 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any  
11 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under  
12 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-  
13 10.

14 e. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS Program may be  
15 renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid  
16 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the  
17 requirements pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

18 (cf: P.L.2007, c.214, s.1)

19

20 2. (New section) a. Upon notice from the authority in a  
21 student's senior year of high school of conditional eligibility for the  
22 NJ STARS Program, a student who determines to pursue final  
23 eligibility for the program shall take a college placement test to  
24 determine readiness for college-level coursework. The test shall be  
25 selected by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and  
26 administered by the county college of the county in which the  
27 student's school district is located at no cost to the student or the  
28 school district. A county college may enter into an agreement with  
29 the school district to administer the test at the high school or other  
30 selected site within the district.

31 b. A county college shall notify any student who does not  
32 achieve the required score on the placement test that the student  
33 requires remediation prior to pursuing county college coursework  
34 for credit under the NJ STARS Program. The student shall have the  
35 responsibility to address the identified deficiencies through such  
36 means as the student determines, including enrollment in remedial  
37 classes at the county college during the senior year of high school.

38 c. Upon graduation from high school, if a student meets the  
39 eligibility criteria for receipt of an NJ STARS scholarship but is not  
40 able to demonstrate the skill levels required to pursue courses for  
41 credit at a county college, the student shall not receive an NJ  
42 STARS scholarship until that ability is demonstrated. The student  
43 shall have one year from the September 1 next following the date of  
44 high school graduation to demonstrate such ability, and if at the end  
45 of the one-year period the student continues to require remediation,  
46 then the student shall lose eligibility for the NJ STARS Program. If  
47 during or at the end of the one-year period the student demonstrates

1 the required ability, then the student shall be eligible for an NJ  
2 STARS scholarship for five semesters.

3

4 3. (New section) a. A student who receives an NJ STARS  
5 scholarship shall be eligible to take less than 12 credits in the final  
6 semester if the county college determines that the student needs to  
7 complete less than 12 credits in that semester to complete the  
8 degree program.

9 b. In the case of a student who is enrolled in an associate  
10 degree program regularly requiring six semesters, the student shall  
11 not receive an NJ STARS scholarship for the sixth semester but  
12 shall maintain eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition  
13 Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program  
14 established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.),  
15 provided that the student meets the requirements for receipt of an  
16 NJ STARS II scholarship.

17

18 4. (New section) A student who is eligible for an NJ STARS  
19 scholarship who earned college credits while enrolled in high  
20 school may submit to the county college a transcript from the  
21 institution of higher education that awarded the credits. If the  
22 county college determines that the student's coursework is  
23 equivalent to that offered by the county college, then the county  
24 college shall apply the credits toward the award of the student's  
25 associate degree under the NJ STARS Program.

26

27 5. (New section) 'a.' In the case of a student who is receiving  
28 a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program on the effective date of  
29 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the  
30 scholarship shall be administered and the student shall remain  
31 eligible for the program in accordance with the provisions of  
32 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.) as the same read before the  
33 effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
34 Legislature as this bill); except that a student who is in the first  
35 year of county college enrollment shall be required to attain 'at  
36 least' a 3.25 cumulative grade point average upon graduation from  
37 a county college in order to qualify for the New Jersey Student  
38 Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program  
39 and a student who is in the second year of county college  
40 enrollment shall be required to attain 'at least' a 3.0 cumulative  
41 grade point average upon graduation from a county college to  
42 qualify for NJ STARS II.

43 'b. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of section 4  
44 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.4) to the contrary, in the case of  
45 a student who is the second year of county college enrollment on  
46 the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
47 Legislature as this bill) who attains a cumulative grade point

1 average equal to or greater than 3.0 and less than 3.25 upon  
2 graduation from a county college and who meets all other  
3 requirements for receipt of an NJ STARS II scholarship, the amount  
4 of the scholarship for the student's third academic year of study  
5 shall equal up to \$3,000 per semester.<sup>1</sup>

6  
7 6. Section 4 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.4) is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 4. a. **[For]** A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program  
10 shall be applied toward the cost of tuition or in the case of a student  
11 who receives a Tuition Aid Grant toward the cost of tuition and  
12 fees, subject to the prior application of other grants and scholarships  
13 against such costs as provided under paragraph (2) of subsection e.  
14 of this section, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course  
15 of study at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher  
16 education], a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be  
17 paid to the institution in the amount of \$2,000 for each semester of  
18 enrollment commencing in the 2006-2007 academic year. For each  
19 academic year thereafter, the amount of the scholarship shall be  
20 increased by one-half of the average percentage increase over the  
21 prior academic year in undergraduate tuition and fees for all four-  
22 year public institutions of higher education and shall be paid to the  
23 institution for each semester of enrollment in that academic year;  
24 except that the amount of the scholarship shall not exceed \$2,500  
25 per semester. The scholarship amount awarded shall be in addition  
26 to any other State and federal need-based grants and merit  
27 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The four-year public  
28 institution of higher education shall waive or provide an  
29 institutional scholarship for any tuition and fee amount for the  
30 student, for up to 18 credits, that exceeds the sum of the NJ STARS  
31 II scholarship and any other State and federal grants and  
32 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The institution shall  
33 not be required to waive or provide an institutional scholarship for  
34 tuition and fees for credits in excess of 18 credit hours in any single  
35 semester] . In the case of a student with a grade point average  
36 equal to or greater than 3.25 and less than 3.50, the scholarship  
37 shall equal up to \$3,000 per semester, and in the case of a student  
38 with a grade point average equal to or greater than 3.50, the  
39 scholarship shall equal up to \$3,500 per semester. The cost of a  
40 scholarship shall be paid 50% by the State and 50% by the public  
41 institution of higher education. Any cost of attendance that is not  
42 covered by the NJ STARS II scholarship or other available forms of  
43 grants and scholarships shall be paid by the student.

44 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ  
45 STARS II Program for up to four semesters, excluding summer  
46 sessions, at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher  
47 education.

1 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the  
2 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study  
3 if the student: has an annual family income, both taxable and non-  
4 taxable, as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student  
5 Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year, of less than \$250,000; attained  
6 an associate's degree from a New Jersey county college; except as  
7 otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 and  
8 subsection b. of section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
9 Legislature as this bill), received a scholarship under the "New  
10 Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)  
11 Program Act," P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), for each  
12 semester of study in the county college, or was eligible for but did  
13 not receive a scholarship under NJ STARS because the student's  
14 tuition and fees were fully covered by other State or federal need-  
15 based grants or merit scholarships, or was eligible for but did not  
16 receive a scholarship under NJ STARS because the student was  
17 enrolled while a high school student in county college courses and  
18 received an associate's degree in accordance with a joint program  
19 offered by the student's school district and a county college; attains  
20 a cumulative grade point average of at least [3.0 for the second  
21 academic year of study in the] 3.25 upon graduation from county  
22 college; enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New Jersey  
23 four-year public institution of higher education for the third  
24 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following  
25 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the  
26 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits  
27 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this  
28 subsection be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade  
29 point average [for the preceding academic year] . The amount of  
30 the scholarship awarded for the third academic year of study shall  
31 be based on the student's cumulative grade point average upon  
32 graduation from the county college in accordance with the  
33 provisions of subsection a. of this section.

34 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the  
35 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of  
36 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II  
37 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to  
38 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance  
39 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point  
40 average of at least [3.0] 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in  
41 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a  
42 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be  
43 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the  
44 preceding academic year. The amount of the scholarship awarded  
45 for the fourth academic year of study shall be based on the student's  
46 grade point average during the third academic year of study in  
47 accordance with the provisions of subsection a. of this section.

1 e. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS  
2 II Program, a student shall:

3 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the  
4 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,  
5 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a  
6 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to  
7 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a  
8 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for an NJ  
9 STARS II scholarship;

10 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and  
11 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of  
12 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be  
13 applied to tuition, and fee charges if applicable, to reduce the  
14 amount of any scholarship that the student shall receive under the  
15 provisions of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.);

16 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year  
17 public institution of higher education; and

18 (4) maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of  
19 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a  
20 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave  
21 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave  
22 shall have been approved by the four-year public institution of  
23 higher education, or unless called to partial or full mobilization for  
24 State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a  
25 Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

26 f. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary  
27 reasons from a four-year public institution of higher education shall  
28 no longer be eligible for a scholarship under this act. If a student  
29 participating in the program is dismissed for disciplinary reasons,  
30 the student shall repay in full all amounts received under the  
31 program. The four-year public institution of higher education shall  
32 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any  
33 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under  
34 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-  
35 10.

36 g. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program may  
37 be renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid  
38 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the  
39 requirements pursuant to this section.

40 (cf: P. L. 2007, c.214, s.2)

41

42 7. Section 5 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.5) is amended  
43 to read as follows:

44 5. **[A four-year public institution of higher education shall**  
45 **accept all]** The policies and procedures set forth in the Statewide  
46 transfer agreement established pursuant to P.L.2007, c.175  
47 (C.18A:62-46 et seq.) shall govern the transfer of academic credits  
48 awarded by a county college to an NJ STARS student who

1 subsequently enrolls in ~~the~~ a four-year public institution of higher  
2 education and is participating in the NJ STARS II Program at the  
3 institution.

4 (cf: P.L.2005, c.359, s.5)

5

6 8. Section 7 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.7) is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 7. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a four-year  
9 public institution of higher education to admit a student eligible for  
10 a scholarship under this act or to waive its admission standards and  
11 application procedures; except that the institution shall apply the  
12 same admission standards and application procedures that it applies  
13 to all other transfer students.

14 (cf: P.L.2005, c.359, s.7)

15

16 9. (New section) In the case of a student who is receiving a  
17 scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program and is in the third  
18 academic year of study at a public institution of higher education on  
19 the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
20 Legislature as this bill), the scholarship shall be administered and  
21 the student shall remain eligible for the program in accordance with  
22 the provisions of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.) as the  
23 same read before the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
24 before the Legislature as this bill).

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26 10. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be  
27 applicable to the 2009-2010 academic year.

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Revises the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs.