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*DAVID J. SOCOLOW*  
Executive Director

October 5, 2022

Dear School Administrators:

Please help connect your high-achieving high school students to valuable merit-based college scholarships offered by New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA).

To identify students who may benefit from the New Jersey Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJSTARS) and the Governor's Urban Scholarship (GUS) program, in the next few weeks we will request high school administrators to **upload a roster of high school seniors** who rank in the top 15.0% of their high school class of 2023 based on their 11<sup>th</sup> grade records.

The **Governor's Urban Scholarship** supports the higher education goals of New Jersey students who have compiled stellar academic records and reside in designated high-need communities. Students may be eligible for an annual \$1,000 GUS scholarship that is renewable for up to four (4) years of enrollment at a college or university within New Jersey if they completed their junior or senior year of high school in the top five (5.0) percent of their class **and** they reside in a designated municipality listed in this [HESAA brochure](#).

In addition, **all** New Jersey resident students who completed their junior or senior year of high school in the top 15.0% of their class can qualify for an award from **NJSTARS** that covers the cost of tuition for up to five (5) semesters at the community college serving the student's home county. NJ STARS students who graduate with an associate's degree and a GPA of at least 3.25 are then eligible for NJ STARS II, offering \$1,250 per semester for four consecutive semesters at an in-state public or private college or university – up to \$2,500 per academic year, or \$5,000 in total support for completion of a bachelor's degree.

This year, HESAA will begin a new process for uploading data about the top 15.0% of your high school's class of 2023. **By December 1, 2022, you must upload your data** to the New Jersey Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS) to ensure that potentially eligible students from your high school receive notification about their next steps to receive a valuable scholarship.

In order to access NJFAMS, the first step is to determine who at your school will be responsible for completing and uploading the list of eligible students. Supervisors must visit HESAA's [online form](#) to request access to NJFAMS for a primary and/or secondary user who will be responsible for uploading your data. Once you complete the form, we will email a User ID and password to the primary and secondary user. The first time these individuals logs in to NJFAMS, they will be prompted to change their password. Please note that this access is intended for the exclusive use of authorized personnel at your school. Your assigned User ID and password must be protected to keep access to HESAA's database secure. *Your school's IT Department should ensure that emails from HESAA or NJFAMS are not blocked or restricted to ensure the timely transmission of data.*

Thank you for your partnership on this important initiative to let students know about the State merit scholarships that can offer vital support of their academic and career aspirations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David J. Socolow".

David J. Socolow  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority