

ESSENCE Early College Program

(Eliminates the ESSENCE Program Tuition Discount)

POLICY PROVISIONS

- Dissolve the previously approved ESSENCE and ESSECE II Program Tuition Credits (policy numbers 3060 and 3061, respectively).
- Provide students residing in Washington County and attending private or home school programs a 25 percent tuition credit for up to 12 credits. After 12 credits, a 10 percent tuition credit would apply.
- Provide students residing **Out-of-County** or **Out-of-State** whether they are enrolled in public or private schools or are home schooled a 25% tuition credit up to **12 credits**.
- County residents taking a cumulative total of 12 credits or less will be eligible to apply for a College-funded ESSENCE Early College Opportunity Scholarship equating to no more than 17.5 percent of the tuition charge before the state-mandated credit (base scholarship). Students demonstrating financial need or exceeding 12 cumulative credits will be eligible to apply for supplemental scholarship funding. The number and total dollar amount to be awarded will be determined annually when tuition rates are reviewed and adjusted by the Board of Trustees. The application process and criteria for the ESSENCE Early College Opportunity Scholarship Fund is to be developed.
- Supplemental scholarships may be made available for FARMS students residing in Washington County and enrolled in a secondary school in Washington County to be applied to institutional and course fees.
- Should HCC begin a Middle College STEM high school in FY 14 or FY 15, these course based tuition credits, rates and special charges and provisions may also be applied to middle college students.

INTENDED OUTCOME

The administration has structured this policy with the intent to charge high school students who are prepared for and want to pursue their first college courses no more than the previous ESSENCE and ESSENCE II Program Tuition Discounts as a percentage of the total costs. This is accomplished by combining the provisions of Senate Bill 740 with the ESSENCE Early College Opportunity Scholarship Fund. This policy also has the added benefit of providing assistance beyond the law for Maryland-based private, home schooled and FARMS students.