



## Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Policies and Procedures

1. The TELS award letter is issued by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). All award amounts are **tentative**. Awards may be reduced because of less than full-time enrollment, additional aid received from other sources, or attendance issues. A student must continuously enroll in a degree program/classes each semester to be eligible for the award (enrollment of less than 6 hours will result in no payment for that term).
2. A FAFSA must be completed each year prior to September 1st to be considered for renewal of TELS. Verification of the FAFSA data may be required prior to the disbursement of lottery funds.
3. The ASPIRE award requires an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of the student or parent from the previous year's tax return to be below \$36,001. The law requires that the AGI requirement be met each year. Therefore, if the AGI exceeds \$36,000 in future years, the award will be changed from the ASPIRE award to the HOPE award.
4. The Nontraditional Hope award also requires an AGI of the student/spouse from the previous year's tax return to be below \$36,001. The law requires that the AGI requirement be met each year. Therefore, if the AGI exceeds \$36,000 in future aid years, the award will be zero for that aid year. If the AGI goes back down in future years, the award may be paid out again if all other eligibility criteria are met.
5. JSCC certificate programs are not payable for Lottery funds. Any semester in which you are in a certificate major OR coursework towards a certificate **cannot** be paid Lottery funds. This semester will still count as continuous enrollment and all Lottery rules must be followed in order to preserve future eligibility.
6. Award adjustments will be made for changes in enrollment until the census date. The census date is defined as the 14<sup>th</sup> calendar day from the first day of class each semester.
7. After the census date and receipt of funds from TSAC, awards will be applied to student accounts based on the TSAC official payment roster. JSCC will certify the student's enrollment status on or after the census date. After certification, funds are typically received from TSAC within 14 – 18 business days. TELS awards cannot be applied to student accounts until requested documents and funds have been received.
8. **Withdrawal from school or dropping below full-time enrollment status after the census date requires prior approval. Full-time students who drop below full-time after the census date without prior approval will automatically lose their scholarship for future terms!!** JSCC may grant prior approval only when there are documented medical or personal grounds. To obtain prior approval, the student should complete the "JSCC TN Promise and TN Lottery Appeal/Leave of Absence Request" form, write a letter of explanation, and submit this petition (along with required documentation) to the JSCC Financial Aid office. The IRP may contact instructor(s) to verify student grade and/or standing prior to reviewing the submitted petition. The Institutional Review Panel (IRP) will then determine whether or not permission will be granted. The form is available at <https://www.jsc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/lottery.html> .  
  
NOTE: Be sure to allot sufficient time for appeals. Be aware of deadlines to drop/withdraw and do not submit appeals too close to deadline dates.
9. Any institutional refund of tuition for drops or withdrawals is subject to be returned to TSAC.
10. Incomplete and other grade changes may make a student eligible or ineligible for the TELS and their award status will be adjusted accordingly for the semester in which the grade change occurred as well as subsequent semesters. **A student must notify the Financial Aid Office within 30 days of a grade change.**
11. TELS recipients who pre-register may use their award to offset tuition at the time the award appears as estimated aid on their account. However, TELS awards will be removed if eligibility is not maintained and student accounts will be adjusted accordingly.
12. **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to the Financial Aid Office must be met each semester to retain the scholarship.** This policy may be found at <http://www.jsc.edu/financial-aid/satisfactory-academic-progress.html>. If you are enrolled for summer coursework, you will have to be evaluated according to our SAP policy after grades are made available before any fall award will be valid.

13. Students must maintain eligibility standards for continuation of the scholarship. The TELS attempted hours and GPA may differ from the institutional attempted hours and GPA. The TELS GPA may be accessed on the Student Self Service on the JSCC website. The eligibility standards for continuation are checked at the benchmark hours listed below:
- 24, 48 attempted credit hours and minimum 2.75 TELS GPA
  - 72, 96, and 120 attempted credit hours and minimum 3.00 TELS GPA
    - i. Or meet the provisional criteria of at least a 2.75 cumulative TELS GPA **AND** 3.0 term GPA (during the last full time semester) **AND** enroll full time the next semester (students qualifying under this provisional criteria will be monitored on a semester basis and will have to either bring their TELS GPA up to a 3.0 or continue meeting the criteria for future continuation).
14. Repeated courses will not replace the hours or original grades for the calculation of the TELS GPA. However, there is an option to repeat one course during the student's college career and have it replace a prior grade. To use this option, the "TELS Repeat" form must be completed. This option may only be used once. The "TELS Repeat" form is available at <https://www.jsc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/lottery.html>.
15. Your JSCC and TELS GPAs may differ. If you have college work from high school, transfer work, have repeated multiple courses, or are a Nontraditional recipient, then your GPAs **WILL** differ. To find out your TELS GPA, you may come by the Financial Aid Office and ask or you may request a memo be mailed to you. GPAs cannot be released by phone or by email.
16. Students may receive the TELS award for up to 5 years from the date of their **initial** enrollment in college, or 120 attempted hours (however, SAP rules still apply – see number 10 above).
17. Students who lose the TELS award and have extenuating circumstances may appeal for reinstatement to the JSCC Institutional Review Panel (IRP). However, the **minimum GPA requirement may not be appealed**. If the TELS GPA falls below the required GPA, students will lose the TELS and cannot have it reinstated for future semesters unless their TELS GPA is brought back up to the required GPA by a subsequent benchmark. Students who accomplish this may request that the Financial Aid Office re-evaluate their TELS status at that time by completing the "TELS Regain" form. This option can only be used once. The Regain form can be found at <https://www.jsc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/lottery.html>.
18. Students who are unable to timely enroll in an eligible institution as required due to medical or personal reasons may appeal to the Institutional Review Panel or the TSAC Award Appeal Panel.
19. If Jackson State discovers an award made in error, the TELS award will be adjusted or cancelled and the student must make repayment to Jackson State. If a repayment is due for any other reason, the student will be responsible for repayment to TSAC. A TELS recipient will be ineligible for any TSAC administered aid until the repayment obligation is resolved.
20. There are additional information resources on our JSCC website at <http://www.jsc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/lottery.html>, including a Lottery Tidbits page and links to the TSAC website. For questions or concerns, please contact Betty Pennington in the Financial Aid office at 731-424-3520 ext. 50388, 1-800-355-5722 ext. 50388, or [bpennington@jsc.edu](mailto:bpennington@jsc.edu).