

Dear Bright Flight Scholarship Student:

This letter contains important information regarding your spring 2017 Bright Flight award. Please read it carefully.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, the Bright Flight program has experienced greater than normal growth in the number of eligible students. In order to maintain current award levels, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has requested an additional \$1.5 million from the General Assembly for the Bright Flight program. Receipt of the additional funding, known as a supplemental appropriation, will ensure eligible students who scored in the top 3 percent on the ACT or SAT exam receive the \$3,000 statutory maximum award.

To maintain that award level, the supplemental appropriation must be passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. The length of the supplemental appropriation process varies from year to year, depending on the number and type of requests from other agencies, as well as other legislative priorities. Unfortunately this means it may be late in the spring 2017 semester, possibly April or even May, before the final status of the additional funding is known.

To avoid overspending the available funding while ensuring students receive as much funding as possible, as early as possible in the semester, MDHE will make spring awards in two phases. Fall awards will not be affected.

In phase one, you will receive a spring award as normal. However, the award will be reduced to an amount that avoids overspending. For example, assuming an annual award amount of \$2,600 would expend all available funding, eligible students would begin the spring semester with a \$1,100 semester award (\$1,500 fall award + \$1,100 spring award = \$2,600 reduced annual award). The actual reduced award amount will depend on fall 2016 payment information and will be announced as early as possible before the spring award cycle begins.

The second phase will occur after the status of the supplemental appropriation is known. If the additional funding is approved, eligible students will receive a second spring award as soon as the supplemental funds become available. Continuing the example from Phase 1, eligible students would receive the remaining \$400, which would restore the full \$3,000 maximum annual award. If the additional funding is not approved, the reduced amount (\$1,100 in the example) will be the final spring 2017 award.

Information about the spring 2017 semester is also available on MDHE's website, dhe.mo.gov. If you have questions, please contact the Missouri Department of Higher Education at (800) 473-6757, option 4, or info@dhe.mo.gov.