



TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

P.O. Box 12788 Austin, Texas 78711

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512/ 427-6101
Fax 512/ 427-6127

Web site:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>

TO: Superintendents, Texas Independent School Districts

FROM: Raymund A. Paredes *RAP*

SUBJECT: Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature created the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) to encourage students to participate in Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Texas institutions of higher education and to become members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air Force National Guard, the Texas State Guard, the United States Coast Guard, United State Merchant Marine, or commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States.

Most recently, the 82nd Texas Legislature, Special Session, fully funded the TASSP to allow for new scholarships to be awarded. The Governor and Lt. Governor have the opportunity to appoint two students each academic year to receive the TASSP and state legislators have the opportunity to each appoint one student.

An overview of program requirements and qualifications for the TASSP is attached and is accessible online on the following link: http://www.hhloans.com/TASSP_Facts I encourage you to disseminate the TASSP information and availability to the high schools in your district. Students may qualify for a scholarship of up to \$10,000 each academic year to pursue or continue their college education. Nominations for the 2012-2013 academic year will commence on **March 15, 2012**.

Please contact Janie Miramontes, Director of Client Services, at (512) 427-6352 or via email at janie.miramontes@thecb.state.tx.us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your commitment to the students of Texas and for your continued support to strengthen the educational pipeline.

Attachment



OVERVIEW

Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

The Texas Legislature created the *Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program* to encourage students to participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs at civilian colleges. A student must meet specific eligibility criteria in order to receive an initial scholarship award. In addition to the eligibility criteria, a student must enter into an agreement requiring a four year commitment as a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine or a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States. Annually, the governor and the lieutenant governor may each appoint two students, and each state senator and each state representative may appoint one student to receive a conditional *Texas Armed Services Scholarship*. A maximum of 185 students may be appointed annually. A student may receive up to \$10,000 for the 2012-2013 academic year and dependent on funding available, students may receive up to four years of scholarship awards.

Eligibility for Nomination

In order to be considered for a *Texas Armed Services Scholarship*, **a student enrolling in higher education straight from high school** must meet **two** of the following **four** academic criteria at the time of application:

- ✓ Be on track to graduate, or has graduated high school with the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) or the International Baccalaureate Program (IB);
- ✓ Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
- ✓ Achieve a college readiness score on the SAT (1590) or ACT (23);
- ✓ Be ranked in the top one-third of the prospective high school graduating class.

A **non-freshman student** applying for an initial award must meet the continuing eligibility requirements outlined below that also apply for continuing receipt of the scholarship.

Eligibility for Receipt of Initial Scholarship

To receive an initial conditional scholarship award through the *Texas Armed Services Scholarship*, a selected student must:

- ✓ Be enrolled in a Texas public or private accredited institution of higher education;
- ✓ Be a member in good standing of a ROTC program while enrolled in the institution, as certified by the institution;
- ✓ Enter into a written agreement with the Coordinating Board agreeing to:
 - Complete four years of ROTC training;
 - Graduate no later than six years after the date the student first enrolls at an institution of higher education;
 - No later than six months after graduation, provide the Coordinating Board with verification of:
 - (i) A four-year commitment to be a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine; or
 - (ii) A contract to serve as a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States;

- Meet all prescreening requirements of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine or the branch of the armed services with which the student enters into a contract; and
- Repay the scholarship if the student fails to meet the requirements for obtaining the scholarship.

Eligibility for Continued Scholarship Awards (As funds are available)

Dependent on funding available, a student may continue to receive an annual conditional *Texas Armed Services Scholarship*, if the student:

- ✓ Maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution of in which the student is enrolled;
- ✓ Continues to be a member of a ROTC program; and
- ✓ Has not earned a baccalaureate degree or a cumulative total of 150 credit hours, including transferred hours.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will each selected student receive through the Texas Armed Services Scholarship?

Students may receive a scholarship **award up to \$10,000** for the 2012-2013 academic year. Any amount paid to a student by the branch of the armed services of the United States during an academic year for which the student receives a *Texas Armed Services Scholarship* will be deducted from the total scholarship award distributed. A student could receive less money each year, contingent on funding available.

What is the deadline for legislators to submit to the Coordinating Board their student selection?

The Coordinating Board respectfully requests that legislators make a TASSP appointment beginning March 15, 2012 for the 2012-2013 academic year. Formal appointments must be made by the legislator or legislator's designee through an online process approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

How may interested students get more information to be considered for a *Texas Armed Services Scholarship*?

Interested students may contact a legislator for more information. Each legislator may set-up additional requirements for their selection process and may use any application process the legislator wishes to use to seek student nominations. To be considered for a scholarship students may contact the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, a Texas State Senator, or a Texas State Representative. Students may locate a legislator by visiting this link: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>. To contact the Governor's office, a student may call the Appointments Office at (512) 463-1828 or visit the office web page here: <http://governor.state.tx.us/appointments/>. The Lt. Governor's office may be reached at (512) 463-0001.

For more information: Office of External Relations
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
er@thehb.state.tx.us
512/427-6111