



To: Seniors and Parents, Class of 2009
From: Jackson Prep Counseling Office
Re: MTAG and MESH
Date: January 15, 2009

All seniors are encouraged to complete the **on-line** Mississippi Student Financial Aid Scholarship Application which is used to qualify for the Mississippi Resident Tuition Grant (MTAG) and the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG). Although the deadline for entering freshmen to submit these applications to the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid is September 15, 2008, we urge you to complete the application as soon as possible in order to expedite scholarship and financial aid offers. Students planning to attend out-of-state institutions should have an MTAG/MESG application on file in the event of a transfer to an in-state school. Please note the following information:

1. The application for Mississippi Student Financial Aid is located at the IHL website: www.ihl.state.ms.us . From the IHL homepage, click on “Parent Guide 2 College,” “Financial Aid,” and “Apply for State Aid.” Follow the instructions for completing the on-line application. Note: The application is a “generic” financial aid application and is used for both MTAG and MESG. Within two weeks applicants will receive notification which includes a PIN number and request for information needed for proof of residency. Applicants can check application status on-line five business days after submitting the on-line application.
2. The student’s ACT score will be verified directly from the ACT testing agency. **If using an SAT score for validation, send a copy of the validating score directly to the Office of Student Financial Aid.**
3. Requirements for eligibility for MTAG: 15 ACT; 2.5 GPA. Requirements for eligibility for MESG: 29 ACT or 1280 SAT; 3.5 GPA. National Merit Semi-finalists/Finalists or National Achievement Semi-finalists/Finalists who do not meet the above criteria may qualify by sending a photocopy of their certificate or notification letter to the Office of Student Financial Aid.
4. For the purpose of determining eligibility for MTAG/MESG, the GPA will be calculated for **seven** semesters, using all courses for which credit is awarded, and weighting for honors and AP courses. **This will be sent electronically by our school to the Office of Student Financial Aid. There is no need to request a transcript.**
5. Students who do not have a qualifying GPA at the end of seven semesters but who meet the eligibility criteria at the end of the school year should contact the Prep Counseling office to have documentation of the validating GPA sent to IHL.
6. Students do not have to complete a FAFSA form unless they are applying for other forms of financial aid or scholarships that require submission of the FAFSA.
7. Mail all supporting documents to: Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211-6453
8. You will be notified to send proof of residency documentation after your application is received.

If you have further questions, call the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid at (601) 432-6997 or contact the Jackson Prep counseling office at (601) 932-8106 ext. 232