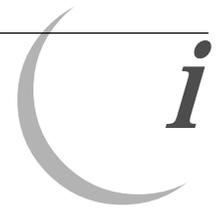


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# Introduction



*The programs covered in this volume are administered at the state level. Students must meet state eligibility criteria to receive assistance or benefits from these programs.*

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## THE STATE GRANT PROGRAMS

The state grant programs are:

- Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program (formerly known as the State Student Incentive Grant [SSIG] Program)
- Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (SLEAP) Program
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship (Byrd Scholarship) Program
- Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 renamed the SSIG Program the LEAP Program. The LEAP Program, covered in Chapter 1, provides grants to states to help those states provide need based grant and work-study assistance to eligible postsecondary students.

The SLEAP Program, covered in Chapter 1 of this volume, is an additional component of the LEAP program. The SLEAP Program provides incentive grants to states to assist them in providing financial assistance to eligible needy postsecondary students and services to eligible needy preschool, elementary school, and secondary school students.

Under the Byrd Scholarship Program, covered in Chapter 2, the Secretary makes grants to states to enable those states to award scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and who show promise of continued academic achievement. (Scholarship recipients are called Byrd Scholars.)

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LEAP and SLEAP program Cites  
*Title IV, Part A, Subpart 4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.*  
*Program regulations are found in 34 CFR 692.*

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Byrd Program Cites  
*Title IV, Part A, Subpart 6 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.*  
*Program regulations are found in 34 CFR 654.*

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GEAR UP Cites  
*Title IV, Part A, subpart 2, chapter 2 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Program regulations are found under 34 CFR 694.*

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 created the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. GEAR UP replaces the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) Program. GEAR UP comprises two component programs that provide competitive grants aimed at improving early college preparation for lower-income students. The State grant component provides funding directly to states, and the Partnership grant component provides funding to partnerships of colleges, local schools, and at least two community organizations or entities such as businesses, philanthropic organizations, state agencies, or other community-based organizations. You can obtain more information on GEAR UP at its web site:

<http://www.ed.gov/gearup>

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 did not reauthorize the Douglas Scholarship Program. However, each former scholarship recipient must continue to fulfill the scholarship agreement he or she made upon receipt of the scholarship.