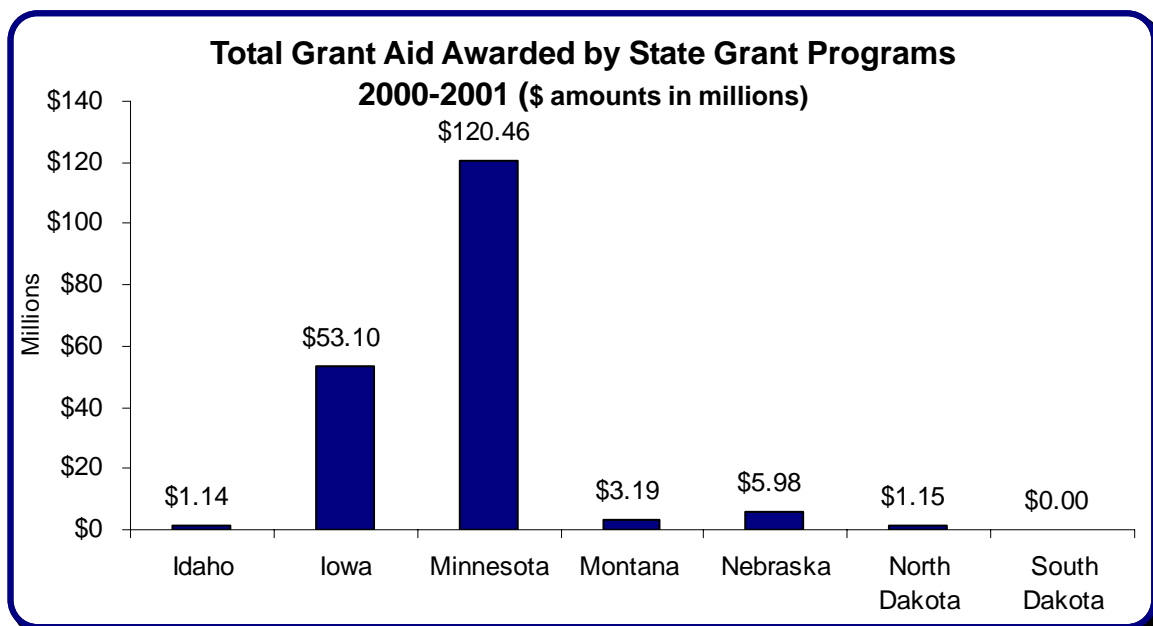


Synopsis: South Dakota is the only state in the union without a state-funded scholarship program or other form of state grant program for higher education. Nationally, states awarded \$4.68 billion in scholarships and grants to undergraduate students in 2000-01, according to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs. In 2003, the South Dakota Legislature approved, but did not fund, a merit-based Regents Scholarship Program. Also in 2003, Gov. Mike Rounds announced a privately-funded Dakota Corps Scholarship Program to help prepare South Dakota students to fill critical-need occupations in the state.

The information economy of the future will require a college-educated workforce. For South Dakota's economy to grow and develop, the percentage of adults with college degrees will need to increase, as well as the percentage of high school graduates who attend in-state colleges and universities.

To achieve those gains, South Dakota needs to focus its attention on keeping its students in state for postsecondary education. Other states are making significant efforts to retain their best students.



Source: National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs

Regents Scholarship Program and Dakota Corps

In 2003, South Dakota created a Regents Scholarship Program, but did not fund it. If it is funded, students taking a more rigorous curriculum and staying in state for college will receive significant financial incentives.

Also this year, Gov. Rounds spearheaded a private fund-raising drive to create the Dakota Corps program, targeted at keeping students in South Dakota after college graduation to fill critical-need occupations.

The following chart provides information about key features of the Regents and Dakota Corps scholarships:

	Regents Scholarship	Dakota Corps Scholarship
Purpose of Scholarship	Encourage students to take more rigorous high school courses, remain in state for postsecondary education	Fill critical-need occupations, encourage students to remain in state post-graduation
Type of Scholarship	Merit-based	Tuition reimbursement
Residency Requirement	South Dakota resident at time of high school graduation	Graduate of accredited South Dakota high school
GPA, College Entrance Exam Scores	24 or higher ACT composite score; verbal/mathematics SAT scores of 1070/1100	GPA of 2.8 or higher on 4.0 scale; 24 or higher ACT composite score
HS Course Requirements	<p>Complete Regents' Scholar curriculum in high school with no final grade below a C and an average grade of B. The Regents' Scholar curriculum is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years of English • 4 years of algebra or higher mathematics • 4 years of science, including 3 years of laboratory science • 3 years of social studies • 2 years of a modern or classical language • 1 year of fine arts • ½ year of computer science 	<p>Meet South Dakota's minimum high school graduation requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years of English/language arts • 3 years of mathematics (one year must be Algebra I or higher) • 2 years of laboratory science • 3 years of social studies • 1 year of fine arts • ½ year of laboratory computer studies <p>(Note: increased minimum requirements are being phased in over several years; requirements shown are effective July 1, 2007.)</p>
Eligible Institutions	Any South Dakota-based university, college, or technical school that is NCA accredited	Participation is voluntary by South Dakota higher education institutions
Eligibility Timelines	Enter into scholarship program within five years of high school graduation or within one year of release from military active duty, if such release is within five years from high school graduation	Agree in writing to stay in South Dakota and work in "critical needs" area after graduation for as many years as scholarship was received, plus one year
Scholarship Amount	\$6,000 over four years (\$1,000 in each of first two years of college, \$1,500 third year, and \$2,500 fourth year)	Equal to full undergraduate tuition and fees at a SD public university, public technical school, or tribal institution; participating private institutions will provide additional scholarship to cover remaining tuition and fees
Special Selection Criteria		Among qualifying candidates, recipients will be chosen based on GPA, test scores, activities, honors, community service, and written essay
Critical Need Criteria		<p>Current "critical need" areas identified in South Dakota are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teaching K-12 music, special education or foreign language; • teaching high school math or science; • working as an LPN, RN, or in other allied health-care fields. <p>Additional critical need areas may be added in the future</p>
For More Information	SD Board of Regents (605) 773-3455	Education Assistance Corporation 1-800-874-9033

For more information, contact Tracy Mercer at 605-773-3455 or send email to tracym@ris.sdbor.edu.