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**Docket Item:**

Approve Permanent Rule Amendment 575-095-0045 Increasing flexibility of state administered financial aid eligibility requirements in instances of widespread emergency.

- New Rule                       Temporary  
 Amend Existing Rule         Permanent  
 Repeal Rule

**Prompted by:**

- State law changes  
 Federal law changes  
 Other: Governor Brown's Executive Order for an Emergency Declaration under Executive Order 20-03 and subsequent extensions

These changes go into effect on adoption.

**Summary:**

This temporary rule was approved by the Commission April 9, 2020.

COVID-19, the associated deterioration in fiscal and economic conditions, and public health related restrictions have created significant hardship for students and institutions in attending courses and operating in a rapidly changing, largely remote education environment.

In the spirit of providing as much flexibility as possible, within the confines of statutory and budgetary flexibility afforded to the agency, staff have examined all rules administered by the agency to determine where waivers, deferments, and the temporary relaxation of current requirements will benefit students, institutions, and regulated schools. The following are proposed changes by program, with an explanation of the current rule and the effect of the modification.

*FINANCIAL AID*

*Child Care Grant*

Current Rule: Requires continuous half-time enrollment and submission of childcare expenses for the renewal of award.

Proposal: Waives both requirements for terms that begin or end under an emergency order.

**Material:**

Rule Text

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Commission approve the attached permanent rule changes, to take effect up filing with the Secretary of State.

## COVID 19 RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGE

### 575-095-0045 (TEMP TO PERM)

#### Renewal of Award

Awards made under this program are renewable provided that:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (5), ~~T~~the awardee continues to be enrolled as at least a half-time student in an approved program at an eligible institution;

(2) The awardee is making satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the institution;

(3) Except as provided in subsection (5), ~~T~~the awardee arranges for the Commission to receive a transcript of the academic work completed in the prior year of award and a child care expense document; and

(4) Each awardee's child used to determine eligibility must continue to qualify under 575-095-0005(5).

(5) An awardee who~~that~~ fails to meet the requirements of subsections (1) and (3) may remain eligible to receive an award in the following term if the student is unable to meet the requirement during a period where there exists an active declaration of emergency or executive order restricting the operations of institutions of higher education, or due to the temporary closure of the awardees usual child care facility related to the issuance of the same or similar declarations or orders.