

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT
REGISTER PUBLIC NOTICE OF
PROPOSED RULEMAKING

AGENCY:

RISLA

DIVISION:

RULE IDENTIFIER: 850-RICR-00-00-1 ERLID 4466

REGULATION TITLE: Nursing Educators Reward Program

RULEMAKING ACTION: Direct Final Rulemaking

Direct Final: If no formal objection is received on or before May 14, 2018
RISLA will file the repeal without opportunity for public comment.

TYPE OF FILING: *Repeal*

TIMETABLE FOR ACTION ON THE PROPOSED RULE: *Public notice date is
4/13/18, end of comment period is 5/14/18*

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULE: *The Nurse Educators Reward Program is
being repealed because it is no longer in effect due to the elimination in 2010 of the
Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).*

COMMENTS INVITED:

All interested parties are invited to submit written or oral comments concerning the
proposed regulations by 5/14/18 to the addresses listed below.

ADDRESSES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSIONS:

Mailing Address: 935 Jefferson Blvd, Ste 3000
Warwick, RI 02886

Email Address: info@risla.com

WHERE COMMENTS MAY BE INSPECTED:

Mailing Address: 935 Jefferson Blvd, Ste 3000
Warwick, RI 02886

FOR FUTURE INFORMATION CONTACT:

ATTN: Noel Simpson, Deputy Director
Rhode Island Student Loan Authority
935 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02882
(401) 468-1792
nsimpson@risla.com

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

There is no benefit or cost to the state in repealing this regulation. The FFELP program was discontinued on June 30, 2010. For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above

Authority for This Rulemaking: [§42-35-2.11](#)

Regulatory Findings:

In the development of the proposed repeal consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

The Proposed Repeal:

RISLA proposes to repeal 850-RICR-00-00-1 as follows:

01-23-07

~~RULES AND REGULATIONS~~

~~NURSE EDUCATORS REWARD PROGRAM~~

~~The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, pursuant to Chapter 62.1 of Title 16 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, hereby promulgates the following Rules and Regulations for the Rhode Island Nurse Educators Reward Program (herein the "Program").~~

A. PURPOSE

The Nurse Educators Reward Program is intended to attract new full-time faculty to Rhode Island nursing programs to help alleviate the nursing shortage in the state. There is a shortage of nursing students because programs have more qualified applicants than there are available slots for students. RISLA has made the incentive greater for nurse faculty as compared to nurses to encourage more graduates to go into teaching. If there are more teachers, programs can increase their enrollments which should help alleviate the nursing shortage.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST FORGIVENESS

To be eligible to participate in the Program, as amended, an individual:

1. Must have at least a master's degree in nursing.
2. Must be teaching full time as a member of the nursing faculty at any institution licensed by the Rhode Island Board of Nursing Registration.
3. For principal forgiveness, must have a federal Stafford, Graduate PLUS or RISLA Alternative Loan to finance his or her nursing education from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority or one of its affiliated lenders **made on or after July 1, 2006**. (For the purpose of these regulations, "Alternative Loan" shall mean a College Bound Loan, a RIFEL Loan, or some other non-federal education loan made by the Authority.)
4. For interest forgiveness must have a federal Stafford, Graduate PLUS or RISLA Alternative Loan to finance his or her nursing education from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority or one of its affiliated lenders **made on or after July 1, 2000**.

C. PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST FORGIVENESS

~~Any individual eligible for principal and interest forgiveness under the criteria specified herein shall obtain an application from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority and shall complete and submit such application to the Authority. Based on such application and such other supporting documentation that may be requested, the Authority shall determine whether the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria for forgiveness.~~

~~If the Authority determines that the applicant meets all eligibility requirements, the applicant shall be relieved of the obligation to pay up to \$5000 of principal per year (in the aggregate) on his or her RISLA Stafford and Graduate PLUS Loan(s) and RISLA Alternative Loan(s) obtained on or after July 1, 2006 during the first four years of repayment provided the applicant continues to satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth herein. Principal forgiveness shall be applied to the individuals' loan balance at the end of each calendar year.~~

~~In addition an eligible applicant shall be relieved of the obligation to pay any interest on his or her RISLA Stafford and Graduate PLUS Loan(s) and RISLA Alternative Loans(s) obtained on or after July 1, 2000 during the first four years after the effective date of these regulations.~~

~~If at any time the applicant is deemed by the Authority to be no longer eligible for principal and interest forgiveness on his or her Stafford and/or Graduate PLUS Loan(s) and/or RISLA Alternative Loans, the Authority shall notify the applicant in which event the applicant's eligibility for loan forgiveness shall terminate.~~

~~Any individual deemed eligible by the Authority for principal and interest forgiveness shall submit to the Authority each year such information as the Authority may prescribe to determine the individual's continued eligibility, which shall include certification from his or her employer and proof of being licensed by the Rhode Island Board of Nursing Registration.~~

~~Any individual no longer deemed eligible for principal and interest forgiveness on his or her loan(s) shall forthwith pay to the holder of such loan all principal and accrued interest accrued during the period of ineligibility.~~

D. APPEALS

~~Any applicant who is aggrieved by any determination with respect to his or her eligibility for loan forgiveness may appeal such determination in writing to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886 within twenty (20) days of said determination. The decision of the Executive Director on all appeals shall be final.~~

E. TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION OF THE PROGRAM

~~Unless extended by the Authority, the Program shall terminate on December 31, 2012. Applicants who on or before December 31, 2012 have been deemed eligible for loan forgiveness under this Program shall continue to receive the benefits specified herein on their loans made on or before December 31, 2012.~~

~~Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Program may be suspended by the Authority in any year for which the Authority determines, in its judgment, there is not available funding.~~