

## Tips for Home Schoolers and the Hathaway Scholarship:

The Hathaway Scholarship is a scholarship awarded to Wyoming high school graduates applying to a Wyoming community college or the University of Wyoming. **For home schooled students, the Hathaway is awarded based on the student's ACT score AND on his/her completion of courses within a set of curriculum requirements called the "Success Curriculum"**. Scholarship amounts vary from \$800 per semester to \$1600 per semester from 4 to 8 semesters, depending upon the award level received. The graduating class of 2006 was the first class to be eligible for the Hathaway, with the class of 2011 being the first required to meet the full requirements of the Success Curriculum.

From 2006 to 2008, ACT scores alone were used to determine Hathaway award levels for home schoolers. Beginning in 2009, Success Curriculum requirements began "phasing in" in an effort to make it easier for students/parents to get on board and be informed of the Success Curriculum. By 2011, the Success Curriculum was in full force. School districts had been educating students and parents in their districts about the Success Curriculum since 2006, but because home schoolers do not typically get involved in public school educational activities, home schoolers did not benefit from this information. Thus, many home schoolers may have been (or will be) "surprised" by the curriculum requirements of the Hathaway, especially when seeking the Hathaway for their 2011 graduates and beyond. Home schoolers that applied for the Hathaway prior to 2011 may have easily met the less stringent requirements of the inactive or "phasing in" Success Curriculum, and therefore, may have remained unaware of the Success Curriculum portion of the Hathaway.

The following information has been prepared to bridge the information gap for home school families so that home school students will have access to the highest level of Hathaway Scholarship possible for their already completed high school academics. It is essential to familiarize yourself with the Hathaway Scholarship in general and with the specific Success Curriculum requirements, both of which can be accessed on the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) site, <http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/hathaway.aspx>. For an overall understanding of the Hathaway Scholarship, scroll down, choosing "Casper College" and then "Merit Awards." To view the Success Curriculum requirements, scroll down and select "Success Curriculum Rubric 2010 & 2011." After reading the information about the Success Curriculum, determine what subjects your students has completed, what he/she intends to complete and where this places your student in the Hathaway scholarship award. If you hope to access the Hathaway, this information is essential to planning your student's high school educational path and to knowing what is necessary to report on your student's transcript.

After familiarizing yourself with the Success Curriculum, you may have a few questions. The following information, presented in a question/answer format, addresses some of the concerns that have already come up for home school students seeking access to the Hathaway and may be helpful to future students navigating the Hathaway Success Curriculum maze.

## **Do I need to prepare a transcript for my student?**

Yes. You, as the parent, need to prepare a transcript or a record of what your student has studied, so Hathaway eligibility can be determined for your student. The Hathaway cannot be awarded without a transcript of some sort. Additionally, your student must take the ACT. The ACT and Success Curriculum are the two main requirements that apply to home schooled students seeking the Hathaway.

If you need additional information regarding keeping/creating a student transcript, the Home School Legal Defense (HSLDA) website, <http://www.hslda.org/highschool/>, is quite helpful. You do not have to be a member of HSLDA to access the plethora of helpful information on this site regarding educating your child through high school.

## **I see that there are GPA and GED as well as ACT score requirements listed for the various merit award levels. My student took the GED – can this be used for Hathaway eligibility?**

No. If your student was home schooled through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and graduated as a home schooled student, the GED is not useful for Hathaway eligibility. Your student must provide an ACT score (or a WorkKeys score if applying for the Provisional Opportunity award level – see [http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/college\\_career\\_readiness/workkeys.aspx](http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/college_career_readiness/workkeys.aspx) for more information regarding WorkKeys testing).

If your student was not home schooled through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (i.e. didn't complete the home school program or "dropped out" from home schooling), then the student will be treated like a GED student and can access the Hathaway in the same way that GED public schooled students do. In this case, your student will need to provide GED and ACT scores for Hathaway eligibility and you will need to meet with the Hathaway Coordinator at your college to determine eligibility in this way. Please note that only a few colleges have a Hathaway Coordinator and some college Admissions Offices are responsible for making initial Hathaway decisions and awards, so you may have to do a little investigating to see who the appropriate Hathaway contact person is at your college.

## **After reading the Success Curriculum requirements, I realize that my 12<sup>th</sup> grade student does not have enough time remaining in school to complete or meet the Success Curriculum requirements. This is disappointing, because my student does meet the ACT requirements and falls short on curriculum only slightly. Is there anything I can do to still access Hathaway money at the level I had hoped?**

Perhaps. If your student is currently in 12<sup>th</sup> grade (will be a 2012 graduate) it may be possible to pursue a course waiver for any courses your student falls short of meeting in the Success Curriculum. You may be able to pursue a course waiver based on your lack of knowledge of the Success Curriculum and/or other "good cause." Hathaway rules state that students and parents were to be educated on the Success Curriculum since 2006 according to Hathaway Rules, Section 20, regarding promotion. Hathaway Rules (Section 24 (c)) make reference to course waivers based on "good cause." To

view a copy of the Hathaway Rules, see [http://edu.wyoming.gov/Libraries/Publications/Chapter\\_38\\_Rules\\_-\\_Hathaway\\_Scholarship.sflb.ashx](http://edu.wyoming.gov/Libraries/Publications/Chapter_38_Rules_-_Hathaway_Scholarship.sflb.ashx). You will need to contact and/or meet with a WDE Hathaway Consultant (see “WDE Hathaway Consultant Information” at the end of this document) if you would like to pursue a course waiver.

It is unlikely that if your student is 11<sup>th</sup> grade or under that you will be granted a waiver for lack of knowledge of the Success Curriculum. But it still may be possible to receive a waiver for other situations. Be sure to read the information below about counting college level credit and junior high school course credit. It may be possible for you to count high school level work completed in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and/or record any college level credit received for more Hathaway credit than you may expect.

**I only send in notification for my students through age 16 or through completion of 10<sup>th</sup> grade as Wyoming Compulsory Attendance Law requires. Is my student still eligible for the Hathaway?**

Hathaway Law states that, in order to be eligible for the Hathaway, home schoolers must notify their School District (of intent to home school) through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This requirement is in conflict with existing Wyoming Compulsory Attendance law which requires notification only through 10<sup>th</sup> grade or through age 16. The Hathaway Law cannot supersede the existing Compulsory Attendance Law; thus proof of notifying through 12<sup>th</sup> grade is not required.

However, because of the notification component in the Hathaway rules, although it is limited by state statute to proof of notification through age 16, colleges CAN ask for proof of notification if they choose to. Some eligible institutions (community colleges or UW) may have the “notification until 12<sup>th</sup> grade” requirement listed on their website or they may mention it to you as a requirement. Proof of notification for your student through 10<sup>th</sup> grade or through age 16 is all that can be requested.

**What qualifies for a “credit” within the Hathaway Success Curriculum?**

Hathaway course credit can be different from what we are used to counting for credit. First, math and foreign language credits completed at a high school level but prior to 9<sup>th</sup> grade can be counted as high school credit for the Hathaway Success Curriculum. Only one high school level foreign language credit and as many as three high school level math credits can be completed prior to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

A rule of thumb that can be used to determine high school level work is your own judgment and your confidence that this course does not need to be repeated at a more mature age in order to adequately prepare your student for college or further study. For instance, your student takes Algebra I and Latin 1 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. You feel like your student completely understood Algebra I and was ready to move on to Algebra II, but in Latin, the student only partially completed his work as he was taking this with 2 older students/siblings at the time and did not complete the level of work you required of the older students. You feel like your 7<sup>th</sup> grade student would best take Latin I again at an older age in order to adequately comprehend the subject material and to be ready to

move on to Latin II. Under these circumstances, you would record Algebra I on your high school transcript, but not Latin 1 (until your student takes the course at what you consider a high school level.)

### **How are “college level courses” considered for Hathaway credit?**

Your student may receive more Hathaway credit for college level courses than you realize. Typically, a year’s worth of high school Spanish I is worth 1 credit of Spanish I. However, if your student goes to a community college and takes two semesters of progressive, level 1000 or above, college level Spanish I, this can be recorded as 2 credits of Spanish I for Hathaway purposes. Thus, every semester of college level Spanish can be recorded as one credit of high school level Spanish (for Hathaway). Completing 2 semesters of college level Spanish would fulfill the foreign language requirement with 2 courses of progressive foreign language. If a student tests out of a college level course and receives college credit for it (perhaps using CLEP testing) that student may also be eligible to receive more credit than you may be accustomed to giving, but this would be entirely acceptable for Hathaway purposes. Please check with a WDE Hathaway Consultant (see “WDE Hathaway Consultant Contact Information” at the end of this document) to confirm your understanding of this and for your particular situation. This information is presented here so that you may understand that college credit earned may assist your student in meeting Hathaway requirements.

### **Because a high school transcript typically only indicates courses taken in grades 9-12, where would eligible courses completed prior to 9<sup>th</sup> grade be indicated on a transcript?**

Coursework completed prior to high school, but completed at high school level, may be included in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade list of coursework completed. Mark these courses with an asterisk (\*) as you record those under the 9<sup>th</sup> grade list of courses, then somewhere at the bottom of your transcript indicate “ \*This high school level course was completed prior to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.” ANY coursework that you feel your student has completed at high school level may be recorded on your transcript in this manner. Again note, that only (up to three) math courses and one foreign language course may be taken prior to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and recorded on the transcript to meet Hathaway requirements. You, as the home school parent, have the privilege of using your own judgment and integrity in planning, completing and appropriately recording your student’s coursework. Please consider that this transcript is providing necessary information that is specific to the requirements of meeting the Hathaway Scholarship in Wyoming. If your student is applying at Universities outside of the state of Wyoming as well as in-state community colleges or UW, you will want to prepare a transcript that is appropriate to both in-state and out-of-state institutions. You should not prepare 2 different official transcripts.

### **Why is the date of graduation important?**

Whether your student took the GED or the ACT, or whether you had an official graduation ceremony, with or without issuing a diploma – regardless of your method of

graduating your student - you need to choose a graduation date for your student, and that graduation date should be listed on your student's transcript. The graduation date is important because colleges use that date to fully admit the student as degree seeking, which is required for Hathaway eligibility and for other financial aid determinations. Hathaway rules generally state that students must apply for the award and enroll in a community college or UW within 24 months of high school graduation, but this rule does not apply to home schoolers. Home school students have until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to apply regardless of when they completed their home school program. It is important to be aware of this requirement.

It is also important to note that only coursework completed prior to the graduation date counts for Hathaway Success Curriculum requirements. For example: Your student graduates in May, 2011 but takes a course during the summer of 2011 in order to meet the foreign language requirement for the Honors Hathaway. Although the course is completed prior to attending college in the fall of 2011, that course will not be counted for Hathaway eligibility because the course was completed after the graduation date listed on the student's transcript. This problem can be solved simply by listing a graduation date of August, 2011 (after the summer foreign language class was completed and prior to beginning college.)

### **How long can I use the Hathaway scholarship?**

There are several requirements for maintaining the Hathaway – your student should look those up on his/her college's website or talk with the Hathaway Coordinator at his/her college. One interesting fact about the Hathaway, is that it can be used for up to 8 semesters but over a period of 6 years. Any gaps in attendance in the Hathaway use automatically suspend Hathaway use but do not stop the 6-year clock. So, your student's "Hathaway Clock" may begin when he/she enters college in the fall of 2011 at age 19 and will continue running for 6 years from that date – until 2017 and age 25. There are specific allowances for gaps in the consecutive use of the Hathaway (like military service and religious service) and specific ways to reinstate use of the Hathaway after a period of not using it (like paying for a semester on your own at a Wyoming institution before reinstatement of your remaining semesters of the Hathaway). This option allows for the use of the Hathaway for a Master's degree or Law School or for any University of Wyoming post-bachelor's education. Talk with the University of Wyoming about using this option in your student's education to fully understand your options here.

### **Is it possible to determine my student's Hathaway eligibility prior to his/her graduation and completion of all of his/her studies?**

Yes, and it would be best if you did this. Oftentimes, our student has no idea of post-graduation study plans or schools he/she hopes to attend. If there is a possibility that your student may attend a Wyoming community college or UW, then you can work with the Hathaway Coordinator at these institutions, asking them to look over completed courses and future courses to determine Hathaway eligibility. You may also contact the WDE Hathaway Consultant (see "WDE Hathaway Consultant Contact Information" at the end of this document) to make the same determinations and plans

about your curriculum. Sometimes, it may just a matter of “presentation” of the course title on the transcript or a little explaining about what work was actually completed in order for your student to receive credit for courses already completed.

**My student met all of the requirements for the Honors Level Hathaway, but he didn't receive that award level. Can I appeal this decision or are we stuck with the decision of the college?**

You can appeal this decision and you should, if you know your student has met all of the requirements for the honors level. Colleges make the initial decision for Hathaway eligibility, so if you are not satisfied with the determination made by the college, you can appeal to the WDE through that college. Kindly call and ask to meet with/discuss your issues with the college Hathaway Coordinator and, if further assistance is necessary, you should also contact the WDE Hathaway Consultant. Be prepared to provide additional information about courses listed on the transcript. Again, it may just be a matter of “presentation” of the course title on the transcript or a little explaining about what work was actually completed in order for your student to receive credit for courses for the Honors level.

#### **WDE Hathaway Consultant Contact Information:**

At various times throughout this document, reference has been made to the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Hathaway Consultants as additional information resources or contact points for help with issues you might be encountering/expecting with the Hathaway. Contact information for the current Consultants is listed on the WDE website, <http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/hathaway.aspx>. Until December, 2011 and for several years prior, Ms. Julie Magee of the WDE has been the primary Hathaway Scholarship contact; however, Ms. Magee is transitioning into a new position and at some point may not be listed on the WDE website page. Ms. Magee's knowledge of the Hathaway is comprehensive and she has graciously offered to continue to serve as an information source and contact for any questions home schoolers might have, especially during the transition time. Her contact information is: (307) 777-8740 and [julie.magee@wyo.gov](mailto:julie.magee@wyo.gov), with email being the preferred and most efficient method of contact.

This information has been prepared by Wyoming resident, Suzanne Wilkins, and home school parent of four children, two of whom are high school graduates (2009 and 2011 graduates.) Suzanne's experience with pursuing the Hathaway Scholarship for her own students prompted the writing of this information. The information provided here is meant to help other home school parents pursue and receive Hathaway money on behalf of their students, so that lack of understanding the Hathaway will not be a hindrance to your student receiving appropriate awards. Suzanne is a busy mom like you, so please excuse inadequacies in this writing. She hopes this information is a help to you and your family. Last updated: December 30, 2011