

[DOST, August 04, 2014]

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10612, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FAST-TRACKED S&T
SCHOLARSHIP ACT OF 2013"**

Adopted: 04 August 2014

Date Filed: 18 August 2014

Pursuant to Section 17 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10612, entitled "*An Act Expanding the Coverage of the Science and Technology (S&T) Scholarship Program and Strengthening the Teaching of Science and Mathematics in Secondary Schools,*" otherwise known as the "*Fast-Track S&T Scholarship Act of 2013,*" the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Education (DepEd) hereby jointly issue the following rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the aforesaid law.

**RULE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. Title. These rules and regulations shall be known and cited as the "*Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10612, otherwise known as the "Fast-Track S&T Scholarship Act of 2013."*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. Science, technology and engineering are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation and their utilization. Priority shall also be given to science and technology education, training and services.

In line with the above, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the development of the country's science and technology manpower in line with economic development and to provide the capability required in the areas of research, development, innovation as well as their utilization. As such, it is important that the State provide for quality science and mathematics teachers at the secondary level, which would encourage more students to pursue careers in science and technology.

Therefore, the State shall provide for scholarship to deserving science students and other specially-gifted citizens to enable them to pursue higher education or training in the areas of science, technology and engineering, and to provide incentives for them to become secondary school teachers especially in their home regions.

SECTION 3. General Objectives. To carry out the measure, this implementing rules and regulations (IRR) shall strengthen the country's science and technology education by fast tracking the graduates in the sciences, mathematics and engineering who shall teach science and mathematics subjects in secondary schools throughout the country. Towards this end, scholarships shall be provided to finance the education of talented and deserving students in their third year of college, and

pursuing a degree or training in the areas of science and technology, and to provide incentives for them to pursue a career in teaching in high schools especially in their home regions.

RULE II DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this IRR, the following terms shall mean or be understood as:

(a) **Act** refers to RA No. 10612, entitled "*An Act Expanding the Coverage of the Science and Technology (S&T) Scholarship Program and Strengthening the Teaching of Science and Mathematics in Secondary Schools and for Other Purposes,*" otherwise known as the "*Fast-Track S&T Scholarship Act of 2013.*"

(b) **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)-Compliant Programs** refers to the specific programs meeting the minimum requirements prescribed by relevant CHED policies, standards, and guidelines.

(c) **General Weighted Average (GWA)** refers to a representation (often numerical) of the overall scholastic standing of student used for evaluation. GWA is based on the grades in all academic subjects taken during the first and second year in college in the S&T priority course the applicant is enrolled in.

(d) **Science and Technology (S&T) Priority Courses** refer to four (4) or five (5) year courses in the basic sciences, mathematics, engineering and other applied sciences identified as priority fields of study by the DOST-Science Education Institute (SEI).

(e) **Republic Act No. 10533** refers to the law, entitled "*An Act Enhancing the Philippine Basic Education System by Strengthening Its Curriculum and Increasing the Number of Years for Basic Education, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes,*" otherwise known as the "*Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013.*"

(f) **Regular Third Year College Student** refers to a student who has completed his/her first and second years in college without any failing grade in all academic subjects and is currently enrolled in full load in the third year level as prescribed in his/her curricular program.

RULE III UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

SECTION 1. Scholarship Program. This IRR builds on the current Science and Technology Scholarships offered by the DOST, through SEI, as provided for in RA No. 7687, otherwise known as the "*Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994.*" It envisions a fast tracking of more science, technology, and engineering graduates by offering scholarships to deserving students in these courses in their third year of undergraduate study, based on their competitiveness and merit. It also offers additional incentives to attract the graduates of this scholarship program into teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses in a public or private high school.

SECTION 2. Eligibility. The following are qualifications for the scholarship with teaching incentive. Applicants must:

(a) be a Filipino citizen;

(b) be a regular third year college student at the time of award;

(c) be currently enrolled in any of the state universities or colleges, or in private universities or colleges, especially in CHED-compliant programs, under any of the identified priority S&T courses;

(d) have a GWA of at least eighty-three percent (83%) or its equivalent in their first and second years in college; and

(e) pass the Junior Level Science Scholarship Examination administered by the DOST-SEI. As used in this section, the term "*Junior Level Science Scholarship*" refers to two (2) or three (3) year science scholarship grants awarded to regular third year college students enrolled in priority S&T courses at identified institutions.

SECTION 3. Award Amounts. Recipients are entitled to an annual award for full-time study equal to the complete financial assistance package offered under RA No. 7687, for students attending an approved undergraduate program at quality schools such as CHED-compliant programs and DOST Network Institutions, public or private, with minimum slots awarded in private schools to offset differences in tuition costs.

In furtherance of this section, the DOST-SEI shall provide the necessary guidelines to determine the minimum number of slots awarded to students enrolled in private schools.

SECTION 4. Duration. Recipients shall be entitled to an award for the last two (2) years of undergraduate study, or the last three (3) years for those enrolled in five (5)-year courses such as engineering, while matriculating in an approved program.

SECTION 5. Approved Courses and Priority Programs. Recipients shall pursue degrees in science, technology and engineering, as identified and approved by the DOST as priority S&T courses. Applicants who are currently enrolled under such courses under the CHED-compliant programs shall be given priority.

SECTION 6. Terms and Conditions. Applicants for the scholarship must execute a service contract in which they:

(a) agree to teach in the secondary level of basic education in a public or private high school as their return of service (ROS);

(b) agree to any of the approved ROS conditions; and

(c) agree to repay the amounts disbursed, plus interest applicable, in case of failure to comply with the terms of the service contract.

The service contract shall stipulate, among others, the grounds for breach of contract and the corresponding penalties if applicable, including the definite period of payment.

SECTION 7. Distribution of Scholarship Slots. The DOST shall allocate scholarship slots to areas based on the recommendation of the DepEd. For this purpose, the DepEd shall provide and continuously update an information system which shall include the specific regions where there are dearth of Science, Technology and Mathematics teachers in the secondary level.