1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the changes to Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-60-215, which was amended to give a state-supported institution of higher education the discretion to classify students with nontraditional documented immigration status as in-state for purposes of tuition and fees under limited circumstances.

2. Guidance

Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-60-215, a student may be classified in-state for purposes of tuition and fees if the student satisfies one (1) of the following requirements:

(a) The student personally holds or is the child of a person who holds a Federal Form I-766 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services-issued Employment Authorization Document, known popularly as a work permit;

(b) The student has verified that he or she is a resident legally present in Arkansas and has immigrated from the Republic of the Marshall Islands; or

(c)(i) The student's request for an exemption under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals has been approved by the United States Department of Homeland Security. (ii) The student's exemption shall not be expired, or shall have been renewed.

In addition, the student must satisfy the following requirements:

(a) Resided in this state for at least three (3) years at the time the student applies for admission to a state-supported institution of higher education; and

(b) Either: (i) Graduated from a public or private high school in this state; or (ii) Received a high school equivalency diploma in this state.

3. Process

Until such time that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education has promulgated the rules contemplated under the statute, any System campus, division or unit seeking to provide in-state tuition to those students who meet the requirements set out above shall do so in coordination with the Office of General Counsel.

July 24, 2019 (Effective date)