Emerging Preeminent University Program

The Legislature passed HB 7029 which made significant changes to the Preeminent Research University metrics and created the Emerging Preeminent University program. Below are the amended preeminence metrics and the criteria for the Emerging Preeminent University program.

1. An average weighted grade point average of 4.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale and an average SAT score of 1800 or higher on a 2400-point scale or 1200 or higher on a 1600-point scale for fall semester incoming freshmen, as reported annually.
2. A top-50 ranking on at least two well-known and highly respected national public university rankings, including, but not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings, reflecting national preeminence, using most recent rankings.
3. A freshman retention rate of 90 percent or higher for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
4. A 6-year graduation rate of 70 percent or higher for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually to the IPEDS.
5. Six or more faculty members at the state university who are members of a national academy, as reported by the Center for Measuring University Performance in the Top American Research Universities (TARU) annual report or the official membership directories maintained by each national academy.
6. Total annual research expenditures, including federal research expenditures, of $200 million or more, as reported annually by the National Science Foundation (NSF).
7. Total annual research expenditures in diversified nonmedical sciences of $150 million or more, based on data reported annually by the NSF.
8. A top-100 university national ranking for research expenditures in five or more science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields of study, as reported annually by the NSF.
9. One hundred or more total patents awarded by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent 3-year period.
10. Four hundred or more doctoral degrees awarded annually, including professional doctoral degrees awarded in medical and health care disciplines, as reported in the Board of Governors Annual Accountability Report.
11. Two hundred or more postdoctoral appointees annually, as reported in the TARU annual report.
12. An endowment of $500 million or more, as reported in the Board of Governors Annual Accountability Report.

Requirements and Qualifications

- Universities that meet 6 of the 12 preeminent metrics will be identified as emerging preeminent universities.
- All preeminent universities not just those that meet all 12 metrics, receive a proportionate share of funding available for the program. Each designated preeminent state research university that shall receive an equal amount of funding. Each designated emerging preeminent state research university shall receive an amount of funding that is equal to one-half of the total increased amount awarded to each designated preeminent state research university.
- A state university designated as an emerging preeminent state research university shall submit to the Board of Governors a 5-year benchmark plan with target rankings on key performance metrics for national excellence. Upon approval by the Board of Governors, and upon the university’s meeting the benchmark plan goals annually, the Board of Governors shall award the university its proportionate share of any funds provided annually to support the program.