



# Report Highlights

## Educational Assistance Scholarships Southern University System

DARYL G. PURPERA,  
CPA, CFE

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### Why We Conducted This Work

We performed procedures to determine if the Southern University System is awarding scholarships in accordance with Board policy and accurately reporting to the Legislature as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 17:1608.

### What We Found

Each academic year, the Southern University System (System) Board of Supervisors (Board) awards Educational Assistance Scholarships (scholarships) in the form of partial tuition waivers to students attending any System institution.

#### Scholarships Awarded for the Academic Year 2013-14 and Academic Year 2014-15

	Number of Scholarships Awarded	Number of Scholarships Disbursed	Total Awarded	Total Allowed for Board Members
Academic Year 2013-14 Totals	68	63	\$57,057	\$76,000
Academic Year 2014-15 Totals	80	78	\$54,000	\$67,000

**Source:** System Board of Supervisors Scholarship Awards Report 2013-2014, System Board of Supervisors Scholarship Awards Report 2014-2015, Board policy, and Banner Student system, as audited

Overall, we found that System management needs to strengthen controls and oversight of the scholarships it awards. We identified the following issues:

- The System Scholarship Committee has not established the criteria students must meet to receive an award.
- The System Scholarship Committee did not ensure that all scholarships awarded during academic years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 met policy requirements. Issues identified during our testing included seven students receiving scholarships that exceeded the maximum award of \$1,000, one student not meeting GPA requirements, and two board members recommending more in scholarship dollars than their allotted amounts.
- The Board Scholarship Reports management submitted to the legislature for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years were not accurate, complete, or submitted by the required date.

View the full report, including management's response, at [www.la.gov](http://www.la.gov).