

**ARKANSAS SENATE**  
95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of Senate Bill 246**

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF  
THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF  
ARKANSAS.

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**Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 246**

Amend Senate Bill 246 as originally introduced:

Add Representatives Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews

AND

Page 15, line 11, delete "6-15-202" and substitute "6-15-202(f)(21), concerning reporting of statutory requirements of accelerated learning by a superintendent,"

AND

Page 15, delete lines 12 through 36

AND

Page 16, delete lines 1 through 36

AND



Page 17, delete lines 1 through 36

AND

Page 18, delete lines 1 through 20

AND

Page 18, delete lines 23 through 36

AND

Page 19, delete lines 1 through 36

AND

Page 20, delete lines 1 through 18

AND

Page 31, line 36, delete "received," and substitute "received,"

AND

Page 32, delete lines 1 and 2, and substitute the following:

~~"except for advanced placement courses"~~

AND

Page 37, delete lines 17 and 18, and substitute the following:

(A) Be admitted by the institution of higher education ~~as a nondegree or noncertificate seeking student;~~ and"

AND

Page 38, delete lines 35 and 36, and substitute the following:

"(c)(1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each year thereafter, the tuition rate for a concurrent credit course offered by a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in partnership with an institution of higher education shall:

(A) For every one (1) academic credit hour provided by an institution of higher education, be an agreed amount that is not:

(i) More than two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the per-pupil amount established under § 6-20-2305 that is allotted per student each year; and

(ii) Less than one-half percent (0.5%) of the per-pupil amount established under § 6-20-2305 that is allotted per student each year; and

(B) Not exceed the standard tuition rate and fee structure of the institution of higher education providing the concurrent credit course.

(2)(A) The amount established under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section may be satisfied through the following sources:

(i) ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program funds;

(ii) Funding from the school district where a student is enrolled;

(iii) Other consideration agreed to by the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school and institution of higher education; and

(iv) Any other available sources as determined by the Division of Higher Education.

(B) An institution of higher education shall not receive funding for concurrent credit courses for tuition at secondary vocational centers under § 6-51-301 et seq. if the institution of higher education is already receiving funding designated for vocational center aid.

(3) A student or a student's parent or guardian shall not be responsible for tuition, fees, or materials for participation in a concurrent credit course."

AND

Page 39, delete lines 1 through 29

AND

Page 47, delete line 13, and substitute the following:

"(ii)(B) The Division A representative from the Office of Learning"

AND

Page 48, line 31, delete "An Arkansas resident" and substitute "resident Resident"

AND

Page 61, line 3, delete "for credit"

AND

Page 65, delete lines 28 through 36, and substitute the following:

"(f) A state-supported institution of higher education shall not:  
(1) Collect and report information related to DEI for  
institutional accreditation purposes;  
(2) Comply with any institutional accreditation requirement  
related to DEI, including without limitation the requirement of a diversity  
statement from a state-supported institution of higher education or any  
employee or contractor of a state-supported institution of higher education;  
or  
(3) Comply with any institutional accreditation requirement of  
an accrediting agency that would require the state-supported institution of  
higher education to violate this subchapter."

AND

Page 66, delete lines 1 through 4

AND

Page 66, delete lines 13 through 15, and substitute the following:

"(h)(1) Upon the president or chancellor of a state-supported institution of higher education receiving notice from the Attorney General of a violation of this section, a state-supported institution of higher education that does not immediately make all reasonable efforts to resolve the violation of this section shall demonstrate compliance with all requirements of this section within a reasonable time."

AND

Page 67, delete lines 4 and 5, and substitute the following:

"(l) This subchapter does not prohibit a state-supported institution of higher education from directing recruitment, advertisement, or promotion efforts to a specific population of prospective or existing students.

(m) This subchapter may be enforced by the Attorney General on behalf of the state."

AND

Page 71, line 22, delete "of arts"

AND

Page 71, line 31, delete "writing that" and substitute "writing by the state-supported institution of higher education awarding the associate degree that"

AND

Page 71, line 34, delete "and"

AND

Page 72, delete lines 1 through 8, and substitute the following:

"under subdivision (c)(6)(B)(ii)(a) of this section; and

(d) Awarded the associate degree by the four-year state-supported institution of higher education if the student elects to be awarded the associate degree by the four-year state-supported institution of higher education upon completion of the degree requirements.

(C)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(6)(B)(ii)(d), a four-year state-supported institution of higher education shall:

(a) Identify each student who has completed at least sixty (60) hours of academic credit and met the state core curriculum requirements; and

(b) Forward a copy of the student's transcript to the two-year state-supported institution of higher education.

(ii) If a student attended more than one (1) two-year state-supported institution of higher education, the student's transcript shall be sent to the two-year state-supported institution of higher education that provided the largest number of credit hours.

(iii) The two-year state-supported institution of higher education shall notify the four-year state-supported institution of higher education if the associate degree has been conferred.

(iv) Upon notification, the four-year state-supported institution of higher education is no longer required to forward subsequent transcripts of the student at the completion of each term."

AND

Page 73, line 25, delete "shall" and substitute "may"

AND

Page 73, delete lines 27 through 29, and substitute the following:

- "(i) General revenues authorized by law; and
- (ii) Any other funds as provided by law."

AND

Page 77, delete lines 32 through 36, and substitute the following:

"(4)(A) A state-supported institution of higher education may

require an immediate for cause review of a faculty member as described in subsection (f) of this section.

(B) A tenured faculty member may appeal a state-supported institution of higher education's performance review decision in accordance with the provisions set by the state-supported institution of higher education in its faculty performance review framework.

(C) A state-supported institution of higher education shall provide a tenured faculty member with appropriate due process."

AND

Page 78, delete lines 1 through 4

AND

Page 78, delete line 30, and substitute the following:

"(iii) Revoked.

(3) A copy of the report under subdivision (d)(2) of this section shall be provided to the division and the Legislative Council."

AND

Page 79, line 1, delete "for cause"

AND

Page 79, delete line 22, and substitute the following:

"(g) This section shall not affect the ability of a state-supported institution of higher education to terminate or take other action against a nontenured or at-will faculty member in accordance with the policies of the state-supported institution of higher education."

AND

Page 82, line 18, delete "Scholarships" and substitute "State-funded Scholarships"

AND

Page 82, line 23, delete "Scholarships" and substitute "State-funded Scholarships"

AND

Page 82, delete lines 26 and 27, and substitute the following:

"6-80-202. Residency classification for state-funded scholarships administered by Division of Higher Education."

AND

Page 82, line 29, delete "scholarship" and substitute "state-funded scholarship"

AND

Page 82, line 31, delete "scholarship" and substitute "state-funded scholarship"

AND

Page 82, delete lines 33 through 36, and substitute the following:

"school, private school, or home school within nine (9) months of enrolling in the state-supported institution of higher education; or

(B) Established legal residency in Arkansas by:

(i) Meeting the requirements of rules promulgated by the Division of Higher Education; and

(ii) Being physically present in Arkansas for at least six (6) continuous months with the intent to remain in Arkansas."

AND

Page 83, line 5, delete "scholarship" and substitute "state-funded"



scholarship"

AND

Page 83, line 7, delete "scholarship" and substitute "state-funded scholarship"

AND

Page 83, line 11, delete "resident" and substitute "resident for state-funded scholarship purposes"

AND

Page 83, line 15, delete "tuition, fees,"

AND

Page 83, line 16, delete "and" and substitute "state-funded"

AND

Page 83, line 19, delete "classification" and substitute "classification for state-funded scholarship purposes"

AND

Page 83, line 21, delete "residency" and substitute "residency classification for state-funded scholarship purposes"

AND

Page 83, line 25, delete "tuition, fee, and" and substitute "state-funded"

AND

Page 87, delete lines 3 through 5, and substitute the following:

"Academic Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-201 et seq., Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-301 et seq., and ~~Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-401 et seq~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarships under § 6-85-701 et seq."

AND

Page 87, line 32, delete "resident" and substitute "legal resident"

AND

Page 88, line 30, delete "resident" and substitute "legal resident"

AND

Page 95, line 26, delete "repealed." and substitute "amended to read as follows:"

AND

Page 95, delete lines 27 and 28, and substitute the following:

"(3) ~~Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship, § 6-85-401 et seq~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship, § 6-85-701 et seq."

AND

Page 99, line 17, delete "an"

AND

Page 99, line 18, delete "subchapter" and substitute "subchapters"

AND

Page 102, line 16, delete "resident" and substitute "legal resident"

AND

Page 103, line 32, delete "an" and substitute "a legal"

AND

Page 107, delete line 32, and substitute the following:

"additional time once eligibility is reestablished.

Subchapter 26 – Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program

6-82-2601. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program".

6-82-2602. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Eligible student" means an Arkansas student with a disability admitted to a qualifying program at a state-supported institution of higher education;

(2) "Inclusive Higher Education Accreditation Council" means the independent, nonprofit accreditation agency for postsecondary programs for students with an intellectual disability; and

(3) "Qualifying program" means a postsecondary education program for a student with an intellectual disability that is accredited by the Inclusive Higher Education Accreditation Council.

6-82-2603. Creation – Eligibility.

(a) There is established the Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program within the Division of Higher Education.

(b) An eligible student who receives a Governor’s Higher Education Transition Scholarship shall maintain eligibility for up to eight (8) continuous semesters or until credentialing is obtained, whichever occurs first.

6-82-2604. Scholarship awards.

(a) Scholarship awards under this subchapter are contingent upon availability of funds.

(b)(1) Scholarship awards shall not exceed the institutional cost of attendance.

(2) The maximum award amount per qualifying semester that a student may receive is two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

(3) A scholarship award may be applied to tuition, mandatory fees, programmatic fees, room and board, supplies, and extended support services.

6-82-2605. Rules.

The Division of Higher Education may promulgate rules to govern administration of the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program, including without limitation application forms and deadlines."

AND

Page 110, delete line 12, and substitute the following:

"number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

SECTION 82. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(d)(1)(C), concerning the authorization for an applicant to elect for earned semester credit hours to be only those earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma, is repealed.

~~(C)(i) An applicant may elect for the earned semester credit hours under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section to be only those semester credit hours earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult Education Section.~~

~~(ii) If an applicant makes the election under subdivision (d)(1)(C)(i) of this section, any semester credit hours earned through concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult Education Section shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for the purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.~~

SECTION 83. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(d)(3), concerning scholarship award amounts for certain institutions of higher education under the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Subject to the availability of net revenue, the scholarship award for an academic year for a full-time student enrolled in one (1) of the following institutions of higher education is ~~one~~ two thousand dollars ~~(\$1,000)~~ (\$2,000) for the first year and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the second year:

- (A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;
- (B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of higher education; or
- (C) An approved school of nursing."

AND

Page 110, delete lines 17 through 36, and substitute the following:

"(1) "Academic year" means a measure of the academic work to be accomplished by a student through the fall, spring, and summer semesters, or the equivalent of the fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order;

(2) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program ~~and~~ that is:

- (A) A state-supported two-year or four-year ~~college or university~~ institution of higher education; or
- (B) A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; or
- (C) A public or private vocational-technical school that is:

(i) Included on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act eligible training provider list;

(ii) Qualified to receive approval for veterans' education benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(iii) Included on the State Board of Private Career

Education list; and

~~(2)(A)~~(3)(A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license, including without limitation a program operated or sponsored by a third party.

(B) "Certificate program" is determined by the division and includes without limitation the following:

- (i) Advanced manufacturing;
- (ii) Health care;
- (iii) Information technology;
- (iv) Construction trades; or
- (v) Logistics and distribution.

(C) The credit hours or contact hours awarded for a certificate program may include credit hours or contact hours that are not creditable toward an associate or a baccalaureate degree."

AND

Page 111, delete lines 1 through 10

AND

Page 111, line 20, delete "an" and substitute "an a legal"

AND

Page 111, line 22, delete "an" and substitute "an a legal"

AND

Page 112, delete lines 21 through 36, and substitute the following:

"(a)(1) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall distribute Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet the requirements under § ~~6-85-304~~ 6-85-302(2).

(2) Up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be allocated

for students eligible under § 6-85-302(2)(C).

~~(b)(1) The division shall distribute scholarships from the funds available in an equal amount to every student eligible to receive a scholarship under this subchapter.~~

~~(2) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the~~  
The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of: program costs or three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

~~(A) Eight hundred dollars (\$800); or~~

~~(B)(i) The cost of the certificate program or program of study.~~

~~(ii) The cost of a certificate program or program of study shall include:~~

~~(a) Tuition, fees, or other charges;~~

~~(b) Textbooks or other course materials; and~~

~~(c) Equipment needed for a course.~~

~~(3)(2) The scholarship awards may be used for expenses included in the cost of the certificate program or program of study.~~

~~(4)(3) A scholarship under this section shall be only for the academic year for which it is awarded.~~

(4)(A) The division shall collaborate with the Office of Skills Development to establish the criteria to be used to determine the eligibility of students under § 6-85-302(1)(C), which shall be included in rules promulgated by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(B) The office shall:

(i) Use the criteria established under subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this section to determine the eligibility of students under § 6-85-302(1)(C); and

(ii) Provide the necessary information regarding eligible students to the division to enable the division to distribute scholarship awards on behalf of an eligible student directly to the approved institution of higher education.

~~(c)(1) If the division has funds remaining after making the distributions under subsection (b) of this section, the division shall distribute scholarships to students for the summer term of the academic year.~~

~~(2) If funds are available under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, a student shall apply for a scholarship for a summer term by a date~~

~~determined by the division preceding the summer term.~~

~~(3)(A) The division shall distribute scholarships for a summer term in the same manner as under subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~(B) Scholarships for a summer term may be used in the same manner as under subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~(4) A student who received a scholarship under subsection (b) of this section may also receive a scholarship for a summer term.~~

~~(d)(c) The division shall disburse all scholarship awards on behalf of an eligible student directly to the approved institution of higher education."~~

AND

Page 113, delete lines 1 through 29, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 84. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-85-308. Reporting requirements.

(a) An approved institution of higher education accepting funds under this subchapter shall submit an annual report to the Division of Higher Education that includes without limitation the following:

(1) Individual student program completer information as defined by the division; and

(2) Student information required to be provided to the division under § 6-85-216.

(b) An approved institution of higher education accepting funds under this subchapter shall submit an annual report to the Office of Skills Development that includes without limitation the following:

(1) Individual student program completer information as defined by the division; and

(2) Student information required to be provided to the division under § 6-85-216."

AND

Page 117, delete lines 26 through 31, and substitute the following:

"amended to read as follows:



(5) The amount of net proceeds that was necessary to fund scholarships under the ~~Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq., during each of the last four (4) years immediately preceding the year in which the proposed bill is being considered, listed separately;"

AND

Page 117, delete line 36, and substitute the following:

"Program, is amended to read as follows:

(C) The year with the highest amount of net proceeds necessary to fund scholarships under the ~~Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq., as determined under subdivision (b)(5) of this section; and"

AND

Page 118, delete lines 1 through 4, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 85. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter – 7 ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program

6-85-701 Creation.

There is created the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program.

6-85-702. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education that:

(A) Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program; and

(B) Is a:

(i) State-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education; or

(ii) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year

institution of higher education that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas and is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

(2)(A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license.

(B) "Certificate program" does not include a program that is operated or sponsored by a third party;

(3)(A) "Concurrent credit course" means a course as defined in § 6-16-1202 that is offered in person on a public high school campus or an approved institution of higher education campus.

(B) "Concurrent credit course" does not include a program that is operated or sponsored by a third party or through virtual means; and

(4) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled in grade ten (10), grade eleven (11), or grade twelve (12) at a public high school in Arkansas.

#### 6-85-703. Eligibility.

(a) A student is eligible to be awarded a scholarship under this subchapter for an academic semester or academic year during which the student is enrolled in a concurrent credit course if the student is eligible to enroll in the concurrent credit course under § 6-16-1204(a)(5).

(b) Scholarship funds shall not be used for courses at a vocational center that are reimbursable under § 6-51-305.

(c) A student is not eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter if the student is enrolled in a concurrent credit course that may be funded under § 6-18-2506.

#### 6-85-704. Funding.

(a) For an academic year, the following shall be used to fund scholarships under this subchapter:

(1) Excess funding returned to the Office of the Arkansas Lottery under § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

(2) Net proceeds remaining from the previous academic year after the office transfers the funds requested by the Division of Higher Education under § 23-115-801(c)(2).

(b)(1) A scholarship under this subchapter shall not be awarded for an

academic year if:

(A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is available under subsection (a) of this section; or

(B) The division received a loan from the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous academic year.

(2) Any funds under subsection (a) of this section that are not disbursed for scholarships under this subchapter shall be carried over to the next academic year to be used for scholarships under this subchapter.

6-85-705. Distribution – Award Amounts.

(a) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall award an ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship to all eligible students who meet the requirements under this subchapter.

(b)(1) The division shall distribute scholarships from the funds available in an equal amount to every approved institution of higher education that has enrolled a student eligible to receive a scholarship under this subchapter.

(2) A scholarship awarded to a student who is eligible under § 6-85-703 shall be awarded in the amount of sixty-five dollars (\$65) per concurrent credit course hour in which the eligible student is enrolled, for a maximum of fifteen (15) concurrent credit course hours per semester.

(3) The maximum scholarship amount a student may be awarded in an academic year, including summer semesters, shall not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

(c)(1) A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education may offer a reduced tuition rate for concurrent credit courses offered by the state-supported institution of higher education to eligible students under this subchapter.

(2) The reduction in tuition under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall not be considered an institutional scholarship.

6-85-706. Rules.

The Division of Higher Education may promulgate rules to implement this subchapter."

AND

Page 119, line 19, delete "~~the~~" and substitute "the"

AND

Page 119, line 20, delete "~~et seq.,~~" and substitute "ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq.,"

AND

Page 119, line 30, delete "~~the~~" and substitute "the"

AND

Page 119, line 31, delete "~~et seq.,~~" and substitute "ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq.,"

AND

Page 120, line 3, delete "~~Scholarships;~~" and substitute "~~Scholarships~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarships;"

AND

Page 120, line 4, delete "~~(d)~~" and substitute "(d)"

AND

Page 120, line 6, delete "~~(e)(d)~~" and substitute "(e)"

AND

Page 120, line 13, delete "~~Scholarships,~~" and substitute "ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarships,"

AND

Page 120, line 18, delete "repealed" and substitute "amended to read as follows:"

AND

Page 120, delete lines 19 and 20, and substitute the following:

"(C) ~~The Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq.;~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq.; and"

AND

Page 120, line 29, delete "~~and the~~" and substitute "and the"

AND

Page 120, line 30, delete "~~et seq.,~~" and substitute "ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq.,"

AND

Page 121, line 5, delete "~~et seq.,~~" and substitute "ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq.,"

AND

Page 121, line 9, delete "or"

AND

Page 121, line 10, delete "~~or the~~" and substitute "or the"

AND

Page 121, line 11, delete "~~et seq.,~~" and substitute "ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq.,"

AND

Page 121, line 25, delete "or"

AND

Page 121, line 26, delete "~~or the~~" and substitute "or the"

AND

Page 121, line 27, delete "~~seq.,~~" and substitute "~~seq.,~~ ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program, § 6-85-701 et seq.,"

AND

Page 122, delete lines 2 through 4

AND

Appropriately renumber the sections of the bill

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and \_\_\_\_\_

By: Senator J. Dismang

CRH/CRH - 03-06-2025 07:18:03

CRH228

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

