

BLR

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING THE
ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Effective Date:

POLICY STATEMENT

These rules shall be known as the ~~Arkansas Department of Education~~, Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program. This policy addresses the student eligibility criteria, method for recipient selection, continuing eligibility requirements and procedures for making payments to an approved institution of higher education, and other administrative procedures necessary for operation of the program.

APPLICABLE ARKANSAS CODE

~~Act 456 of 2019~~ Ark. Code Ann. § 6-85-401 et seq.

APPLICABILITY

This rule is applicable to students who are eligible for a scholarship under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program.

1.00 DEFINITIONS

1.01 “Academic year” means a measure of the academic work to be accomplished by the recipient.

1.01.1 The academic year is defined as fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order.

1.02 ~~4~~ “Approved Institution of higher education” means an institution of higher education that:

1.02.1 ~~a.~~ Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program;

1.02.2 ~~b.~~ Offers at least a fifty percent (50%) discount on the tuition and mandatory fees of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program to a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program, unless other opportunities are provided that lower the tuition and mandatory fees below fifty percent (50%); and

1.02.3 ~~e.~~ Is a:

1.02.3.1 ~~i.~~ State-supported two-year or four-year college or university;
~~or~~

1.07.1.2 b. Address accelerated learning opportunities;

1.07.1.3 c. Address academic deficits and interventions; and

1.07.1.4 d. Include college and career planning components;

1.08 7) “Third party” means a person or entity that does not receive disbursement directly from the Division for this program, including a subcontractor of the institution.

2.00 ELIGIBILITY

2.01 4) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship for an academic semester or academic year during which the student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program if the student:

2.01.1 a. Is an Arkansas resident or, if the student is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, either the student or one (1) parent of the student is an Arkansas resident; and

2.01.2 b. Provides proof that a completed student success plan has been submitted to the student’s high school or home school.

2.02 2)–The student success plan for a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program shall:

2.02.1 a. Be prepared in consultation with school personnel, the student, and the student's parent or legal guardian or a college advisor.

2.02.2 b. Include an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program that is relevant to the student's success plan and include measures that ensure the successful completion of the endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program in which the student is enrolled.

2.02.3 c. A student whose enrollment in a vocational center is reimbursable under § 6-51-305 is not eligible for a scholarship under this program.

2.02.4 d. Students must meet all established requirements for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses set by the Division of Higher Education.

3.00 CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

3.01 4) A student is eligible to continue to receive the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship if the student successfully completes an endorsed concurrent credit

course or certificate program course and receives a minimum grade point average of 2.5.

3.02 2) A student who fails to complete an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 shall retain eligibility and enroll in no more than one (1) endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course for the first semester following the semester in which the student failed to successfully complete an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course.

3.02.1 ~~a~~- If a student fails to complete an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course a second time, the student shall be ineligible to reapply or receive the scholarship again.

3.02.1.1 This also applies to a student that drops out of an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course before the end of the semester.

4.00 AMOUNT OF AWARDS

4.01 1) If funds are available, the Division of Higher Education shall award Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships to all students eligible for the scholarship for the fall, ~~and spring~~ or summer terms.

4.02 2) The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of:

4.02.1 ~~a~~- Five hundred dollars (\$500)

4.02.1.1 ~~i~~- Eligible students shall be awarded one-hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each eligible course the student is enrolled, up to two (2) eligible courses per semester; or

4.02.2 ~~b~~- The actual tuition and mandatory fees cost to the student for up to two (2) eligible courses per semester.

4.03 3) A scholarship granted under this section may be awarded in addition to any funds received for the enrollment in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course under § 6-16-1204(e)(3).

4.04 4) Unless a student's high school or community-based program provides financial assistance for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for an endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course, the remaining cost of tuition and mandatory fees for an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program is the responsibility of the eligible student who is enrolled in the endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program course.

- 4.05 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 this scholarship.

5.00 INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Approved institution of higher education responsibilities.

5.01 1) Administrative agreement.

5.01.1 The chief executive officer of the approved institution of higher education is responsible for appointing one (1) representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program and to receive all communications, forms, etc.

5.01.1.1 This representative is responsible for verification, data, and compliance with these rules.

5.01.2 The approved institution of higher education shall comply with all rules in order to maintain the status of an approved institution of higher education.

5.02 2) Disbursement records.

5.02.1 The approved institution of higher education shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of scholarship funds.

5.03 3) Verification.

5.03.1 The approved institution of higher education shall provide certification of enrollment in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards, as of the eleventh day of classes, by completing a Verification Roster each semester after registration.

5.03.1.1 The Verification Roster is an alphabetical listing by an approved institution of higher education of all students receiving the award for a given academic term.

5.03.1.2 The certifying official is responsible for completing the verification rosters each semester.

5.04 4) Deadlines for disbursement of funds.

5.04.1 The deadline for disbursement of funds is no later than ten (10) days after receipt of funds.

5.04.1.1 Any outstanding funds not disbursed by this date must be returned to the division.

5.04.1.2 For those students whose applications are received by the division too late to allow disbursement by this date, disbursement will be made within ten (10) working days of receipt of the verification roster and electronic transfer of funds to the approved institution of higher education.

5.05 ⤴ Due diligence.

5.05.1 The approved institution of higher education will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the division on any scholarship recipient or former scholarship recipient.

5.05.2 In addition, the approved institution of higher education will exercise due diligence in complying with these rules.

5.05.3 The division may periodically review the approved institution of higher education's records concerning this scholarship program to ensure the compliance with due diligence requirements.

5.06 ⤴ Course eligibility.

5.06.1 The approved institution of higher education is responsible for verifying that the endorsed concurrent credit courses and certificate program courses meet the requirements set in Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-16-1202 and policies of the division.

6.00 HIGH SCHOOL AND HOME SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

6.01 ⤴ The high school or home school shall provide certification of eligibility for a student to enroll in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program.

6.02 A high school or home school shall verify the completion of the student's student success plan before certifying that a student is eligible for the scholarship.

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H2/14/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1412

5 By: Representative J. Mayberry
6 By: Senator J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING RULES PROMULGATED BY THE DIVISION
10 OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF
11 HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
12 CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED
13 WITH STATE FUNDS AND LOTTERY PROCEEDS; TO DECLARE AN
14 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

18 TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF HIGHER
19 EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
20 CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF
21 SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH STATE FUNDS AND
22 LOTTERY PROCEEDS; AND TO DECLARE AN
23 EMERGENCY.
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25

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
27

28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 80, Subchapter 1, is amended
29 to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-80-109. Division of Higher Education – Rules.

31 (a) The Division of Higher Education shall promulgate or update
32 existing division rules to allow a student who is a recipient of a
33 scholarship to utilize scholarship funds to enroll in and attend courses
34 offered during a summer term at the postsecondary institution in which the
35 student is enrolled.

36 (b) Rules promulgated under this section shall include without



1 limitation requirements concerning:

2 (1) Student eligibility; and

3 (2) The disbursement and administration of scholarship funds
4 utilized by a student to enroll in and attend courses offered during a summer
5 term.

6 (c) As used in this section, "scholarship" shall include a scholarship
7 program that is:

8 (1) Funded with state funds or lottery proceeds; and

9 (2) Administered by the division.

10
11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(14), concerning the definition of
12 "semester" under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (14)(A) "Semester" means one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a traditional academic
15 year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the
16 division, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

17 ~~(A)(i)~~ Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student,
18 except that in the first semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a
19 traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours;
20 or

21 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student.

22 (B) For purposes of summer courses at an institution of
23 higher education, a "semester" shall mean the same as is defined by the
24 division, as required by § 6-80-109;

25
26 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
27 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Division of Higher
28 Education must make certain arrangements to facilitate the use of Arkansas
29 Academic Challenge Scholarship funds for upcoming summer courses; and that
30 many of these arrangements must occur in time for the 2023-2024 school year.
31 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary
32 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
33 effective on July 1, 2023.

34
35 /s/J. Mayberry

36 **APPROVED: 3/30/23**

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H3/16/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1333

5 By: Representatives Lundstrum, Long, McAlindon, R. Scott Richardson, Rose, Underwood, Unger
6 By: Senator J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF A
11 STUDENT UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE
12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13
14

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF A STUDENT
16 UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE
17 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
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20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-402(4), concerning the definition of
24 "student" under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (4) "Student" means a person ~~who has junior or senior status and~~
27 in grade ten (10), grade eleven (11), or grade twelve (12) who is enrolled at
28 a:

- 29 (A) Public high school in Arkansas;
30 (B) Private high school in Arkansas; or
31 (C) Home school, as defined in § 6-15-501.
32

33 /s/Lundstrum
34

35 APPROVED: 4/4/23
36



1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/20/23 H4/5/23*

2 94th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

HOUSE BILL 1417

4

5 By: Representative Lundstrum

6 *By: Senator J. English*

7

8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

10

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL

11

SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS APPROVED

12

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO ENSURE THAT

13

CERTAIN FUNDS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FUND

14

ACCOUNT ARE EXPENDED ON STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A

15

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OR A VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL;

16

AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

21

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONCERNING APPROVED

22

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

23

CONCERNING THE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

24

FUND ACCOUNT.

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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

28

29 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(3), concerning the definition of*
30 *an "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Academic*
31 *Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:*

32 *(3)(A) "Approved institution of higher education" means an*
33 *institution of higher education approved by the division to participate in*
34 *the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and that is:*

35 *~~(A)(i)~~ A state-supported two-year or four-year*
36 *college or university;*



1 ~~(B)(ii)~~ A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year
2 college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that
3 is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; ~~or~~

4 ~~(C)(iii)~~ An approved school of nursing, subject to
5 the provisions of § 6-85-213(c);

6 (iv)(a) A public or private vocational-technical
7 school.

8 (b) A public or private vocational-technical
9 school shall be bonded and insured; or

10 (v)(a) A public or private technical institute.

11 (b) A public or private technical institute
12 shall be bonded and insured.

13 (B) An approved institution of higher education that is a
14 private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be
15 eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

16
17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended
18 to add an additional section to read as follows:

19 6-85-222. Vocational-technical school and technical institute
20 eligibility.

21 (a) An applicant for a scholarship under this subchapter who has
22 applied to or is currently enrolled in a public or private vocational-
23 technical school or a public or private technical institute shall, in
24 addition to the relevant eligibility requirements under this subchapter, be
25 accepted for admission in a program of study that leads to an associate
26 degree or a certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand
27 fields:

28 (1) Industry;

29 (2) Health care; or

30 (3) Information technology.

31 (b) The Division of Higher Education shall file annually by November 1
32 a report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the
33 Legislative Council requires regarding:

34 (1) All state-supported student financial assistance awarded by
35 the division under this subchapter to students enrolled in vocational-
36 technical schools and technical institutes; and

