



## **Division of Higher Education**

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Jacob Oliva  
Secretary

Ken Warden, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

July 28, 2026

The Honorable Ricky Hill, Chair  
The Honorable Justin Gonzales, Chair  
ALC - Lottery Oversight Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Hill and Representative Gonzales:

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 6-85-205 (g) (1) (A), I am submitting for your review the enclosed report on the status of Academic Challenge students for fiscal Year 2026. It should be noted that we can only report the current status of students as to whether they maintained their eligibility at the end of the spring 2026 semester. Students have until October 1, 2026 to provide documentation that they have completed summer coursework to maintain their eligibility. The Arkansas Division of Higher Education will provide the requested information on students who dropped out or lost their scholarship in our December report.

The attached report shows the current status of all students who received an Academic Challenge award in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2026.

Should you require additional information, please let me know and we will be happy to provide.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Warden", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr. Ken Warden, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

**Arkansas Division of Higher Education  
Academic Challenge Scholarship Program  
Student Statuses - All Cohorts  
Fiscal 2026**

**Traditional**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male  | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid   |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Completed       | 4,505         | 3.85                    | 23.7        | 3.50                | 1,626 | 2,762  | 117            | 17                               | 120                    | 273                  | 390      | 3,399                | 134             | 172          | \$ 19,487,855 |
| Dropped         | 369           | 3.44                    | 21.4        | -                   | 149   | 168    | 52             | 7                                | 9                      | 22                   | 37       | 240                  | 1               | 53           | \$ 759,556    |
| Eligible        | 15,441        | 3.86                    | 23.4        | 3.74                | 5,159 | 7,875  | 2,407          | 104                              | 490                    | 1,085                | 1,292    | 10,027               | 14              | 2,429        | \$ 58,984,426 |
| Pending Renewal | 5,404         | 3.59                    | 22.1        | 2.38                | 2,043 | 2,689  | 672            | 44                               | 120                    | 575                  | 519      | 3,441                | 17              | 688          | \$ 19,318,442 |
| Overall-Summary | 25,719        | 3.79                    | 23.1        | 3.48                | 8,977 | 13,494 | 3,248          | 172                              | 739                    | 1,955                | 2,238    | 17,107               | 166             | 3,342        | \$ 98,550,279 |

**Non-Traditional**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male  | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid   |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Completed       | 1,053         | 3.38                    | 20.5        | 3.55                | 347   | 496    | 210            | 7                                | 22                     | 128                  | 105      | 516                  | 39              | 236          | \$ 3,714,790  |
| Dropped         | 57            | 3.22                    | 21.1        | -                   | 14    | 23     | 20             | -                                | -                      | 6                    | 6        | 23                   | 1               | 21           | \$ 104,125    |
| Eligible        | 1,584         | 3.38                    | 20.6        | 3.12                | 482   | 731    | 371            | 7                                | 26                     | 190                  | 168      | 769                  | 31              | 393          | \$ 5,977,821  |
| Pending Renewal | 642           | 3.24                    | 19.6        | 3.86                | 215   | 294    | 133            | 2                                | 13                     | 138                  | 59       | 286                  | 8               | 136          | \$ 2,353,883  |
| Overall-Summary | 3,336         | 3.35                    | 20.4        | 3.45                | 1,058 | 1,544  | 734            | 16                               | 61                     | 462                  | 338      | 1,594                | 79              | 786          | \$ 12,150,619 |

**Academic Challenge Plus Receipts**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male  | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid   |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Completed       | 535           | 3.56                    | 20.6        | 3.52                | 138   | 311    | 86             | 4                                | 13                     | 56                   | 69       | 295                  | 8               | 90           | \$ 671,270    |
| Dropped         | 252           | 3.31                    | 20.5        | -                   | 85    | 130    | 37             | 6                                | 8                      | 25                   | 34       | 141                  | -               | 38           | \$ 295,600    |
| Eligible        | 7,108         | 3.72                    | 21.6        | 3.18                | 2,157 | 3,960  | 991            | 43                               | 206                    | 959                  | 1,078    | 3,780                | 29              | 1,013        | \$ 12,192,133 |
| Pending Renewal | 3,153         | 3.46                    | 20.6        | -                   | 1,074 | 1,668  | 411            | 26                               | 54                     | 563                  | 397      | 1,686                | 6               | 421          | \$ 5,183,211  |
| Overall-Summary | 11,048        | 3.63                    | 21.24       | 3.31                | 3,454 | 6,069  | 1,525          | 79                               | 281                    | 1,603                | 1,578    | 5,902                | 43              | 1,562        | \$ 18,342,214 |

**All Categories**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male   | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid    |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Completed       | 5,558         | 3.78                    | 23.2        | 3.50                | 1,973  | 3,258  | 327            | 24                               | 142                    | 401                  | 495      | 3,915                | 173             | 408          | \$ 23,202,645  |
| Dropped         | 426           | 3.42                    | 21.3        | -                   | 163    | 191    | 72             | 7                                | 9                      | 28                   | 43       | 263                  | 2               | 74           | \$ 863,681     |
| Eligible        | 17,025        | 3.82                    | 23.2        | 3.41                | 5,641  | 8,606  | 2,778          | 111                              | 516                    | 1,275                | 1,460    | 10,796               | 45              | 2,822        | \$ 64,962,247  |
| Pending Renewal | 6,046         | 3.56                    | 21.9        | 2.97                | 2,258  | 2,983  | 805            | 46                               | 133                    | 713                  | 578      | 3,727                | 25              | 824          | \$ 21,672,325  |
| Overall-Summary | 29,055        | 3.75                    | 22.9        | 3.48                | 10,035 | 15,038 | 3,982          | 188                              | 800                    | 2,417                | 2,576    | 18,701               | 245             | 4,128        | \$ 110,700,898 |

**Arkansas Division of Higher Education  
Academic Challenge Scholarship Program  
Student Statuses - 2026 Cohort  
Fiscal 2026**

**Traditional**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male  | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid  |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Completed       | 156           | 3.86                    | 22.8        | -                   | 43    | 104    | 9              | 1                                | 2                      | 8                    | 22       | 114                  | -               | 9            | \$ 548,452   |
| Dropped         | 270           | 3.36                    | 20.8        | -                   | 104   | 130    | 36             | 5                                | 4                      | 17                   | 28       | 179                  | -               | 37           | \$ 522,790   |
| Eligible        | 7,858         | 3.84                    | 23.1        | -                   | 2,609 | 3,874  | 1,375          | 53                               | 226                    | 582                  | 648      | 4,966                | 1               | 1,382        | \$25,462,840 |
| Pending Renewal | 2,742         | 3.49                    | 21.2        | -                   | 1,051 | 1,300  | 391            | 20                               | 41                     | 301                  | 258      | 1,725                | 1               | 396          | \$ 8,289,918 |
| Overall-Summary | 11,026        | 3.74                    | 22.6        | -                   | 3,807 | 5,408  | 1,811          | 79                               | 273                    | 908                  | 956      | 6,984                | 2               | 1,824        | \$34,824,000 |

**Non-Traditional**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid  |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Completed       | 310           | 3.35                    | 19.2        | -                   | 95   | 140    | 75             | 2                                | 5                      | 46                   | 36       | 130                  | 9               | 82           | \$ 1,067,253 |
| Dropped         | 34            | 3.18                    | 21.5        | -                   | 7    | 11     | 16             | -                                | -                      | 2                    | 5        | 10                   | -               | 17           | \$ 60,250    |
| Eligible        | 983           | 3.36                    | 20.3        | -                   | 295  | 437    | 251            | 6                                | 13                     | 123                  | 116      | 453                  | 11              | 261          | \$ 3,586,098 |
| Pending Renewal | 355           | 3.20                    | 19.6        | -                   | 114  | 157    | 84             | 1                                | 4                      | 70                   | 29       | 164                  | 2               | 85           | \$ 1,287,633 |
| Overall-Summary | 1,682         | 3.32                    | 19.95       | -                   | 511  | 745    | 426            | 9                                | 22                     | 241                  | 186      | 757                  | 22              | 445          | \$ 6,001,234 |

**Academic Challenge Plus Recipients**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male  | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid  |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Completed       | 180           | 3.53                    | 20.2        | -                   | 37    | 108    | 35             | 1                                | 4                      | 23                   | 28       | 86                   | 3               | 35           | \$ 258,224   |
| Dropped         | 192           | 3.28                    | 20.1        | -                   | 60    | 103    | 29             | 5                                | 4                      | 18                   | 24       | 112                  | -               | 29           | \$ 254,915   |
| Eligible        | 3,712         | 3.69                    | 21.2        | -                   | 1,118 | 1,992  | 602            | 23                               | 87                     | 528                  | 489      | 1,963                | 9               | 613          | \$ 8,432,107 |
| Pending Renewal | 1,732         | 3.38                    | 20.4        | -                   | 597   | 887    | 248            | 13                               | 16                     | 304                  | 202      | 944                  | 1               | 252          | \$ 3,629,911 |
| Overall-Summary | 5,816         | 3.23                    | 19.25       | -                   | 1,812 | 3,090  | 914            | 42                               | 111                    | 873                  | 743      | 3,105                | 13              | 929          | \$12,575,157 |

**All Categories**

| Current Status  | Student Count | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average College GPA | Male  | Female | Unknown Gender | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian/Pacific Islander | Black (Non-Hispanic) | Hispanic | White (Non-Hispanic) | 2 or More Races | Unknown Race | Amount Paid  |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Completed       | 466           | 3.56                    | 20.8        | -                   | 138   | 244    | 84             | 3                                | 7                      | 54                   | 58       | 244                  | 9               | 91           | \$ 1,615,705 |
| Dropped         | 304           | 3.35                    | 20.9        | -                   | 111   | 141    | 52             | 5                                | 4                      | 19                   | 33       | 189                  | -               | 54           | \$ 583,040   |
| Eligible        | 8,841         | 3.79                    | 22.9        | -                   | 2,904 | 4,311  | 1,626          | 59                               | 239                    | 705                  | 764      | 5,419                | 12              | 1,643        | \$29,048,938 |
| Pending Renewal | 3,097         | 3.46                    | 21.1        | -                   | 1,165 | 1,457  | 475            | 21                               | 45                     | 371                  | 287      | 1,889                | 3               | 481          | \$ 9,577,551 |
| Overall-Summary | 12,708        | 3.69                    | 22.32       | -                   | 4,318 | 6,153  | 2,237          | 88                               | 295                    | 1,149                | 1,142    | 7,741                | 24              | 2,269        | \$40,825,234 |