



Division of Higher Education

4 Capitol Mall, Box 21 • Little Rock, Arkansas • 72201-3827 • (501) 371-2000 • Fax (501) 371-2001

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 Workforce Challenge students for fiscal Year 2026. The attached report shows the current status of all students who received a Workforce 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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Ken Warden, Ed.D.
Commissioner

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

Current Status	Student Count	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
Awarded	2,231	335	886	1,010	10	6	371	80	708	16	1,040	\$ 1,562,090
Declined	379	60	232	87	-	1	94	15	171	4	94	\$ 271,390
Overall-Summary	2,610	395	1,118	1,097	10	7	465	95	879	20	1,134	\$ 1,833,480

**Arkansas Division of Higher Education
Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program
Student Statuses - All Cohorts
Fiscal 2025 & 2026**

Current Status	2024-25 Student Count	2024-25 % by status	2025-26 Student Count	2025-26 % by status
Awarded	2,480	92%	2,231	85%
Declined	224	8%	379	15%
Overall-Summary	2,704	100%	2,610	100%

**Arkansas Division of Higher Education
Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program
Student Statuses - All Cohorts
Fiscal 2025 & 2026**

Race/Ethnicity	2024-25 Student Count	2024-25 % by status	2025-26 Student Count	2025-26 % by status
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0%	10	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10	0%	7	0%
Black (Non- Hispanic)	325	12%	465	18%
Hispanic	66	2%	95	4%
White (Non- Hispanic)	945	35%	879	34%
2 or More Races	18	1%	20	1%
Unknown Race	1,337	49%	1,134	43%
TOTAL	2,704	100%	2,610	100%