

# Handout E1

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The cover slide features a red header with the Arkansas state seal on the left, the text "Research Report" in the center, and a diamond-shaped logo with "ARKANSAS" and stars on the right. The main body is blue with the title "Succeed Scholarship Report" and subtitle "Act 827 of 2019" in white. A red footer contains the text "Bureau of Legislative Research".

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The slide has a blue header with the word "Roadmap" in white. Below is a bulleted list: "Introduction", "Participating Students", "Student Performance", and "Private School Information". A red footer contains "Bureau of Legislative Research" and the number "2".

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The slide has a blue header with the word "Introduction" in white. Below is a bulleted list: "Act 827 of 2019", "Methodology", "Program Overview", "Student Eligibility", and "Private School Requirements". A red footer contains "Bureau of Legislative Research" and the number "3".

## Introduction – Required Report

- Act 827 of 2019
- Sets out specific requirements for data collection
- Sets out specific requirements for contents of report
- 2020-21 school year

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## Introduction – Methodology - Questionnaires

- Bureau developed questionnaires in consultation with DESE
- DESE sent out questionnaires, private schools returned to DESE
- One form per school and one form per student
- Out of 44 eligible schools, 38 had students participating in 2020-21, 33 returned questionnaires
- Student demographics, student performance, private school information

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## Introduction – Methodology – DESE Data

- DESE spreadsheet
- Previous school experience, number of students participating

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## Introduction – Program Overview

- Provides state-funded scholarship to use at a private school of choice to students with disabilities, students in foster care, and (following Act 689 of 2021) students who are children of a member of the uniformed services
- Maximum amount per student is foundation funding amount for the current school year
- DESE (or its designee) disburses payments monthly
- Funds do not come from General Assembly's Public School Fund or any county, city, or district tax revenue

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## Introduction – Student Eligibility (2020-21)

- Be in foster care or have been in the foster care system and achieved permanency through adoption, reunification, or permanent guardianship; or
- Have an individual education program/individualized service plan, or have been medically diagnosed as a child with a disability
- Must have been currently enrolled in a public school and have attended a public school for at least one full academic year (with exceptions)
- Must have been accepted for admission into an eligible private school and have had a parent or legal guardian notify the student's current school district of the request for a scholarship at least 60 days before the date of the first scholarship payment

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## Introduction – Student Eligibility Changes

### Act 741 of 2021

- Added definition of "student with a disability"
- A student who has been identified by a public school district as having a disability consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or
- A student who has been medically diagnosed by a licensed physician as a child with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

### Act 689 of 2021

- Expands eligibility to children who are dependents of a member of the uniformed services
- Those students may only receive a scholarship if funds remain after all other eligible students have received a scholarship

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## Introduction – Private School Requirements

Meet accreditation requirements set forth by State Board of Education (SBOE), Arkansas Nonpublic Accrediting Association (or its successor), or another accrediting association recognized by the SBOE as providing services to severely disabled individuals; or is an associate member of or has applied for accreditation by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the SBOE as providing services to severely disabled individuals;

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## Introduction – Private School Requirements

- Demonstrate fiscal soundness by being in operation for one school year or provide the Department of Education with a statement by a certified public accountant confirming the school is insured and has sufficient capital or credit to operate in the upcoming school year;
- Comply with antidiscrimination provisions of federal law;
- Meet state and local health and safety requirements;
- Be academically accountable to parents or legal guardians for meeting educational needs of students;

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## Introduction – Private School Requirements

- Employ or contract with teachers who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees;
- Employ or contract with at least one teacher who holds a current, valid standard license in special education issued by the State Board of Education;
- Comply with all state laws and regulations governing private schools; and
- Adhere to the tenets of the schools' published disciplinary procedures before expulsion of students receiving scholarships.

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## Participating Students

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of students currently participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program.

### 2020-21 School Year Number of Students Participating Each Month

Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
477	469	465	473	472	473	471	470	470	469

According to quarterly statements, 493 total students participated in the 2020-21 school year. (Source: Reform Alliance statements)

According to DESE data, 503 students were approved to participate in the 2020-21 school year. (Source: DESE spreadsheet)

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## Participating Students

**Statutorily Required Information:** Report from private schools regarding the demographic data of students who have applied for the Succeed Scholarship under this subchapter and students who were awarded the Succeed Scholarship under this subchapter, including without limitation the geographic location in the state of the students who are participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program.

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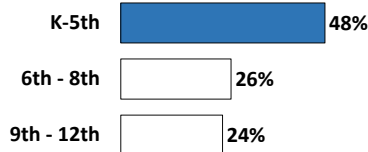
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## Participating Students – Grade Level



Source: Data collected from participating private schools

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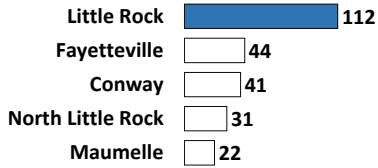
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## Participating Students – City/Town of Residence

### Top Five Cities



Source: Data collected from participating private schools

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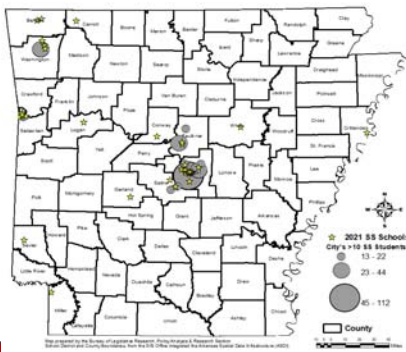
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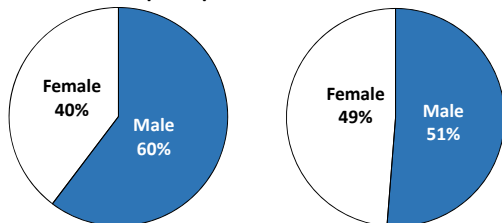
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## Participating Students – Gender

Succeed Scholarship Recipients    All Public School Students



Source: Data collected from participating private schools

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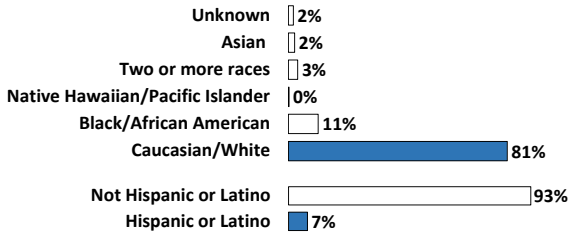
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## Participating Students – Race/Ethnicity

### Succeed Scholarship Participating Students



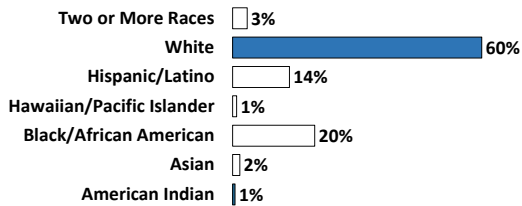
Source: Data collected from participating private schools

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## Participating Students – Race/Ethnicity

### All Public School Students



Source: My School Info

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## Participating Students – Free or Reduced Price Lunch Status

Status	Students	Percentage
Eligible for free or reduced price lunch	68	26%
Not eligible for free or reduced price lunch	191	74%

Source: Data collected from participating private schools

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## Participating Students – Previous Public School Experience

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of students currently participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program who attended a traditional public school before receiving a Succeed Scholarship.

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of students currently participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program who did not attend a traditional public school before enrolling in a private school upon receipt of a Succeed Scholarship.

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## Participating Students – Previous Public School Experience

Previous School Setting	Students
Arkansas school district	305
Arkansas open enrollment charter	31
Arkansas education service cooperative	20
Development disability services facility or Easterseals	27
Out-of state school	13
No traditional public school listed	107

Source: DESE spreadsheet

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## Participating Students – Students Leaving Program

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of students who have been dismissed from the Succeed Scholarship Program by a private school that is receiving funds through the Succeed Scholarship Program.

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of students who attended a private school with a Succeed Scholarship and voluntarily returned to a traditional public school.

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### Participating Students – Students Leaving Program

Of the 457 students reported by private schools

- 17 were dismissed from the program
- 31 voluntarily returned to a traditional public school.

Source: Data collected from participating private schools

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### Participating Students – Students Leaving Program

**Statutorily Required Information:** *The number of children in foster care who have entered the Succeed Scholarship Program, have been dismissed from the Succeed Scholarship Program, or have been removed from the Succeed Scholarship Program by the Department of Human Services.*

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### Participating Students – Students Leaving Program

- DESE data
  - 14 foster care students participating in 2020-21
- Private school responses
  - 15 foster care students participating in 2020-21
  - Private schools did not report any students removed by the Department of Human Services or dismissed from the program

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## Student Performance

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of students who are enrolled in the Succeed Scholarship Program and who have taken a nationally recognized norm-referenced test and received the test results.

**Statutorily Required Information:** Review norm-referenced test results and provide comparative data regarding student performance in the Succeed Scholarship Program.

## Student Performance

### SBOE Approved Assessments – 2020-21

ACT Aspire
Basic Achievement Skills Inventory (BASI)—Grades 3-12
Brigance Diagnostic Inventories—Grades birth to 7 yellow, PK-9 green
Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)—Grades 3-12
Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS)/ Terra Nova
Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)—Grades K-9
Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED)—Grades 9-12
Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement Third Edition (KTEA-3)
Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT8)—Grades K-12
Stanford 10 (SAT 10)—Grades 3-12
Terra Nova/CAT 6—Grades K-12

## Student Performance

Test Administered	# Students Tested	Test Administered	# Students Tested
ACT	RV	PSAT	RV
ACT Aspire *	16	Stanford 10 (SAT 10) *	40
IOWA Assessments	20	School Entrance Exam	RV
ITBS *	RV	Terra Nova/CAT 6	RV
KTEA-3 *	75	WJ-IV *	72
NWEA	114		

RV (Restricted Value) = Numbers of 10 or Less \* = SBOE Approved Assessment

## Student Performance

### Student Performance Analyses Caveats

- Variety in Tests Taken and Score Types Provided
- Comparability pre- and post-participation
- COVID-19

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## Student Performance

### ACT Aspire

	English/ELA	Reading	Math	Science
<b>Below Readiness Benchmark</b>	63%	88%	89%	94%
<b>Meets Readiness Benchmark</b>	37%	12%	11%	6%
<b>Total Tests Taken</b>	19	17	18	16

### KTEA-3

	Math	Reading	Written Expression
<b>Very Low</b>	15%	30%	35%
<b>Low</b>	30%	28%	30%
<b>Below Average</b>	30%	26%	26%
<b>Average or Above Average</b>	25%	16%	9%
<b>Total Tests Taken</b>	73	87	74

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## Student Performance

### NWEA

	Math	Reading	Language Usage
<b>Low/Low Average</b>	42%	42%	36%
<b>Average</b>	18%	21%	26%
<b>High Average/High</b>	39%	37%	38%
<b>Total Tests Taken</b>	104	107	94

### WJ-IV

	Math	Reading	Spelling
<b>Very Low</b>	63%	52%	51%
<b>Low/Low Average</b>	31%	37%	29%
<b>Average/Very Superior</b>	6%	11%	20%
<b>Total Tests Taken</b>	137	138	69

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## Student Performance – Testing Exemptions

Participating Private Schools (Responded)	Num. Students Exempted from Testing
ACCESS Group Inc., ACCESS Academy	68
Bentonville Christian Academy	RV
Catholic High School for Boys	RV
Children's ABA TEAM	RV
Clover Community School	RV
Easterseals Arkansas – The Academy at Riverdale	29
Hannah School	66
Legacy Academy	RV
Mount St. Mary Academy	RV
Trinity Christian	RV
<b>Total Students Exempt from Standardized Testing</b>	<b>183</b>

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## Student Performance – Student Portfolios

**Statutorily Required Information:** *The number of student portfolios that have been developed for exempt students and a general summary of the information contained in the student portfolios as required under § 6-41-903.*

**Statutorily Required Information:** *Review student portfolios and provide comparative data regarding student performance in the Succeed Scholarship Program.*

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## Student Performance – Student Portfolios

### Elements Included in Portfolio Descriptions

Student personal information	Assessments
Parent/guardian assessment	Vocational interest inventory
Personal assessments	Student self-reflection
Student's support team	Work samples (including video based, individual based work, group-based work)
Resume	Pre and post testing for curriculum materials
Current IEP (if applicable)	Individual treatment plan goals
Student transcripts	Parent conferences and parent emails regarding work samples
Student goals (academic and transitional)	Artwork
Job trainings	Handwriting samples

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## Student Performance – Student Portfolios

### Portfolio Description Summaries of Student Work

Recognizing his/her name and personal information	Age appropriate play
Recognizing colors, shapes, letters, and numbers	Following instructions and answering questions
Focusing and memory recall	Time management skills
Learning independent life skills (e.g. feeding, dressing, and using the restroom independently)	Working on Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) behaviors
Learning appropriate social interactions with peers and staff	Counting money

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## Student Performance – Student Portfolios

### Portfolio Description Summaries of Student Work...Continued

Following daily schedule and making necessary transitions for task/activity	Proper hygiene
Learning appropriate behaviors (e.g. not throwing objects)	Table manners
Organization skills	Social-emotional skills
Basic addition and subtraction	Grammar

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## Student Performance

Of the 33 private schools that responded to BLR's questionnaire, 14 schools submitted no test scores or portfolio information for 31 students.

- 3 schools – COVID-19
- 2 schools – Timing of Student Enrollment/Un-enrollment
- 9 schools – No Clarification Provided

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## Private School Information - Accreditation

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of private schools receiving Succeed Scholarship funds that are currently accredited by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, Inc., its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education.

**Statutorily Required Information:** The number of private schools receiving Succeed Scholarship funds that are currently unaccredited but have applied for accreditation to the Arkansas Nonpublic Accrediting Association, Inc., its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the state board, and where those schools are in the accreditation process.

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## Private School Information - Accreditation

State Board of Education recognizes three private school accrediting bodies:

- Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, Inc.,
- Cognia (formerly known as AdvancED), and
- The American Montessori Society

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## Private School Information - Accreditation

- **33** schools responded to questionnaire
- **28** are fully accredited
- **5** have applied for accreditation or are associate members of an accrediting association

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## Private School Information - Administrative Costs

**Statutorily Required Information:** Report from private schools of administrative costs required to implement the Succeed Scholarship Program.

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## Private School Information - Administrative Costs

• 13 schools listed dollar amounts for administrative costs ranging from \$21.36 to \$1,730

### • Categories of Costs

- Bookkeeping time—7 schools
- Applications and application support—5 schools
- Program specific paperwork—3 schools
- Other—1 school

Source: Data collected from participating private schools

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## Questions

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