

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 248

4
5 By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CHALLENGE PLUS
9 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

12 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CHALLENGE PLUS
14 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

16
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

18
19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

21 Subchapter 6 – Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship Program

22
23 6-85-601. Creation.

24 There is created and established the Arkansas Challenge Plus
25 Scholarship Program.

26
27 6-85-602. Eligibility.

28 A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship
29 under this subchapter for an academic semester or academic year if the
30 student:

31 (1) Applies for and maintains eligibility for a scholarship
32 under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program; and

33 (2) Demonstrates financial need as determined by the Free
34 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

35
36 6-85-603. Award of scholarship.



1 (a) An Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship under this subchapter shall
2 be awarded to eligible applicants:

3 (1) In addition to a scholarship awarded under the Arkansas
4 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;

5 (2) Based on the amount of financial need as determined by the
6 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

7 (3) As determined by the Division of Higher Education if
8 sufficient funds are available; and

9 (4)(A) In increments of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per
10 eligible student per academic year, with a maximum of four thousand dollars
11 (\$4,000) per eligible student per academic year, as determined by the
12 division.

13 (B) The sum of an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship
14 under this subchapter and an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship shall
15 not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) total per eligible student per
16 academic year.

17 (C) Scholarship amounts awarded under this subchapter may
18 vary each year depending on the amount of funding available.

19 (b)(1) Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarships under this subchapter
20 shall be funded by available net proceeds remaining from the previous
21 academic year after the Office of the Arkansas Lottery:

22 (A) Transfers the funds requested by the division under §
23 23-115-801(c)(2); and

24 (B) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the
25 Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 in an amount
26 equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

27 (2) However, an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship under this
28 subchapter shall not be awarded for an academic year if:

29 (A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars
30 (\$250,000) is available under subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section; or

31 (B) The division received a loan from the account under §
32 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program for the
33 previous academic year.

34 (3) The total amount of scholarships awarded under this
35 subchapter shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for
36 academic year 2023-2024.

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6-85-604. Authority.

(a) The Division of Higher Education shall administer the Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship Program under this subchapter.

(b) The division may promulgate rules to administer the program under this subchapter.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after July 1, 2023.