

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 126

By: Senator J. Sturch
By: Representative L. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY AND ADDITIONAL
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY AND
ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF
THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-203(c), concerning the applicability of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program – Part 2, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) Recipients of Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarships ~~are prohibited from receiving Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships~~ may receive an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under this subchapter.

(2) The amount of an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship awarded to a recipient of an Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarship shall not be more than the maximum scholarship amount provided to a recipient of an Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarship under § 6-82-312.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-208(1), concerning additional eligibility requirements for a nontraditional student under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program Part – 2, is amended to read as follows:

(1)(A) If the applicant has not been enrolled in an approved institution of higher education, has ~~either:~~

~~(A) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and achieved a 2.5 high school grade point average; or~~

~~(B)(i) Graduated~~ graduated from an Arkansas public high school, a private high school, an out-of-state high school, a home school high school, or obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult Education Section and had a superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent.

~~(ii)(B)~~ (B) The Division of Higher Education shall promulgate rules in consultation with ACT, Inc. to determine the mechanism for calculating and disseminating an applicant’s superscore on the ACT; or

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-216(a)(1) and (2), concerning reports submitted to the Division of Higher Education by institutions of higher education, are amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) An approved institution of higher education that enrolls students receiving scholarships under this subchapter annually shall provide information and semiannually shall provide updated information to the Division of Higher Education regarding all state-supported student financial assistance, whether or not the state-supported student financial assistance is awarded under this subchapter.

(B) An approved institution of higher education is not required to provide the information described in subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section to the division if the information has previously been reported to the division through the Arkansas Higher Education Information System or the state financial aid information system.

(2) The information described in subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall be provided in the form of individual student records and shall include without limitation information regarding:

(A) State-supported student financial assistance The criteria for determining eligibility for scholarships under this subchapter;

- (B) Demographic student data; and
- (C) Disaggregated data on remedial courses.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-219(c), concerning reports that are required to be submitted to legislative committees by the Division of Higher Education, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Annually by December 31, the division shall report to the Legislative Council ~~the following information~~ summary-level data, in accordance with § 6-85-216, on recipients of ~~the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — Part 2~~ scholarships under this subchapter ~~who applied as of June 1:~~

- ~~(1) Race;~~
- ~~(2) Grade point average;~~
- ~~(3) Composite score on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; and~~
- ~~(4) Family or individual income as reported on the student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).~~

APPROVED: 2/9/21