

NCSL Information Request: State Scholarship Programs (Academic Achievement)
NCSL Contact: Andrew Smalley (andrew.smalley@ncsl.org)

State Merit-Based Scholarship Programs

Alaska Performance Scholarship

Institution Type: Any participating college or university.

Costs Covered: Cost of attendance including: tuition fees, books, room and board and transportation).

Funding Type: Last dollar

Application Requirements:

- Alaska resident & graduate from Alaska high school
- Complete ACT or SAT & Meet GPA Requirements
- Complete FAFSA
- Enroll full time

Program Requirements:

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Award eligibility is 8 semesters

State Funding: \$9.4 million in awards in FY20.

Student Notification: Students work with school counselors and can check their eligibility status online in August.

California CalGrant Program

Institution Type: 339 eligible colleges universities and career technical schools

Costs Covered: 3 Tiers of Grant Level

- Cal Grant A – Covers tuition and fees up to \$12,570 for UC schools or \$5,742 for CSU schools.
- Cal Grant B – Covers tuition and fees as well as living allowance – Up to \$1,672
- Cal Grant C- (For occupational or technical programs) up to \$1,094

Application Requirements:

- Submit FAFSA
- California resident & meet citizen/non-citizenship requirements
- Not have a bachelors or professional degree prior
- Meet income requirements (generally under \$95,000 income)
- Meet GPA requirements (3.0+)
- Cannot be incarcerated or formerly incarcerated

Program Requirement:

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Be enrolled at least half time in a degree or certificate program

State Funding: Total Cal Grant Funding- approximately \$523 million in FY21.

Student Notification: Students most complete the FAFSA by March to be eligible.

Connecticut: Roberta Willis Scholarship (Formerly Governor's Scholarship)

Institution Type: Includes public and private institutions, both 2-year and 4-year.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Connecticut resident & graduate of high school
- Merit Scholarship – Requires class rank in top 20% & ACT/SAT Scores
- Need Scholarship- Requires EFC within range determined annually.

Costs Covered: Tuition and Fees (Up to \$5,250 per year for 4-year institutions and \$4,650 for two year institutions)

State Funding: Funded by biennial appropriation, [\\$33,388,637](#) in FY22.

Funding Type: Last dollar scholarship program

Student Notification: Students must complete the FAFSA by Feb. 15 to be eligible, awards are distributed after this deadline.

[Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#)

Institution Type: All eligible postsecondary institutions in the state

Eligibility Requirements:

- State Resident – enrolling at Florida institution
- Submit Florida Financial Aid Application
- Complete required courses in high school & high school diploma
- Meet GPA requirements
- Complete 75-100 service hours

Costs Covered:

- Florida Academic Scholarship – covers 100% of tuition and fees as well as \$300 per semester for college related expenses.
- Florida Medallion Scholars – Covers 75% of tuition and fees.
- Florida Academic Top Scholars – Provides \$44 per credit hour

Funding Type: First Dollar + additional support for expenses in some cases

State Funding: Funded by lottery revenue (approximately [\\$650 million](#) in annual funding)

Details: In 2017, 70% of undergraduates at the University of Florida received the scholarship.

Other Requirements: Amount of scholarship and eligibility varies by statute each year. Funding has been reduced in recent years.

Student Notification: Students must apply by their high school graduation and submit final grades for approval.

[Georgia HOPE Scholarship](#)

Institution Type: Both 2-year and 4-year schools including private schools

Eligibility Requirements:

- Legal resident of Georgia
- Graduate of high school with 3.0 GPA or higher & completed academic requirements (exceptions made for home study students)
- Be in good disciplinary standing

Costs Covered: Tuition only

Funding Type: First Dollar

State Funding: Funded by revenue from Georgia State Lottery. Approximately [\\$888](#) million in FY 2021.

Details: In 2018, the program covered an average of 60% of tuition costs for students. Approximately 36% of university students receive aid. Nearly 40% of scholarship recipients lose their scholarship after their first year.

Student Notification: Students must complete the FAFSA by an annual deadline.

Idaho Opportunity Scholarship

Institution Type: Must attend one of the following colleges and universities (Includes both two year and four-year institutions)

- Boise State University
- Brigham Young University – Idaho
- College of Idaho
- College of Southern Idaho
- College of Western Idaho
- College of Eastern Idaho
- Idaho State University
- Lewis-Clark State College
- North Idaho College
- Northwest Nazarene University
- University of Idaho

Eligibility Requirements:

- Idaho resident and graduate of an Idaho high school
- Have a GPA of 2.7 or higher
- Complete the FAFSA
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress

Costs Covered: Tuition and Fees (Up to \$3,500)

State Funding: Funded by appropriation as part of entire state financial aid appropriation. Approximately [\\$15 million](#) in funding in FY2019.

Funding Type: Last Dollar

Student Notification: Students must apply by March 1.

Indiana 21st Century Scholarship Program

Institution Type: Public Colleges (Both 2-Year & 4-Year) AND private colleges

Eligibility Requirements:

- Residents of Indiana, enrolled in Indiana public or private school between 7th and 8th grade,
- Meets certain income requirements at time of application.
- Students must earn GPA of 2.5 in high school.
- Earn a high school diploma and complete Scholar Success Program in high school/college.

Costs Covered: Funds up to four years of undergraduate tuition at public colleges and universities. This amount can also be applied to private universities that are eligible for the program.

State Funding: [\\$166,270,623](#) in FY21

Funding Type: Last dollar

Student Notification: Students must enroll in 21st Century Scholars by June 30th of the end of their 8th grade year.

Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship

Institution Type: Most two-and-four-year institutions in the state.

Eligibility Requirements:

- US Citizen and resident of Kentucky
- High school students who earn at least a 2.5 GPA
- Cannot be a convicted felon

Costs Covered: Funds can be used for tuition and fees. Reimbursement for some apprenticeship costs are allowed.

Funding Type: First Dollar

State Funding: Uses funds from the state lottery. Funded with [\\$116,126,600](#) in FY21.

Details: Awards increase based on GPA (above 2.5). Max award is \$500 per year for 4.00. Students can earn additional bonuses for ACT or IB/AP test scores.

Student Notification: Awards are determined based on GPA for each year of high school. Funding is available within 5 years of graduating high school.

Louisiana TOPS Scholarship Program

Institution Type: All eligible 2-year and 4-year institutions

Eligibility Requirements: Louisiana resident & high school graduate, minimum GPA and ACT score

Costs Covered: Tuition and fees (awards vary by major and degree program) up to 4 years or 8 semesters. If available, Honors funding receive an \$800 stipend for additional costs.

State Funding: \$311 million (\$251 from lottery, \$59.2 from legislature) in FY 2019

Details: Different types of TOPS Program fund financial aid, TOPS Honors & Performance fund based on academic performance

Student Notification: Student must file by July 1 of the year of their high school graduation. Awards are dispersed based on eligibility from high school grades shortly thereafter.

South Carolina Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE)

Institution Type: Eligible 2-year and 4-year institutions

Eligibility Requirements:

- US Citizen
- Graduate from South Carolina High School
- Meet 3.0 GPA requirement

Costs Covered: Tuition (Max award: \$5,000) can include a \$300 book allowance

Funding Type: First dollar

State Funding: \$214 million in 2015.

Details: Automatically given to students who meet merit requirements.

Student Notifications: Student eligibility is determined by class rank upon graduation.

State Legislative Scholarship Programs

[Louisiana Legislative Scholarship Program \(Tulane University\)](#)- One-year, full tuition scholarship to Tulane University. Note: This scholarship is funded by Tulane University, not the state. Each state senator and representative may nominate a student for a scholarship. In 2019, the legislature considered, but did not pass [a bill](#) that would have made the scholarship unavailable to immediate family members of a legislator or other elected officials.

[Pennsylvania House of Representatives Scholarship](#)- Awards two students with scholarships for postsecondary education, scholarships are awarded by the Chief Clerk of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Funded using only private donations, not public funds.

[New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship](#) – Available to residents who enroll full time at a public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico within sixteen months of graduation or receipt of a high equivalency credential and maintain continuous full-time enrollment. Student must maintain a 2.5 or greater cumulative grade point average (GPA) each semester of enrollment. Up to \$2,294 dollars per semester.

Illinois Legislative Scholarship Program (No Longer Active)- Provided more than \$13.4 million in waived tuition fees for eligible students. In 2012, Illinois [eliminated](#) the Legislative Scholarship program amid concerns of abuse.

States with Promise Programs (Free College) for Community Colleges (2-Year Institutions)

State & Program	Details
Arkansas – ArFuture	Last dollar scholarship for tuition and fees at public two-year colleges and technical schools. Only available to students in select, high-demand fields such as computer coding, nursing, welding. Grant recipients must receive mentoring and complete 10 hours of community service per semester. Recipients agree to reside in state for 3 years after degree completion.
California – California Promise Grant	One year of tuition and fees for full-time students at Community Colleges. AB 2 (2019) expands funding to include second-year full time students at community colleges.
Delaware – SEED Program	Covers tuition for up to 6 semesters at Delaware technical and community colleges.
Hawaii – Hawaii Community College Promise Program	Last dollar scholarship covering direct education costs (Tuition, Fees, Books, Supplies, Transportation) for students in community colleges.
Indiana – Workforce Grant	Last dollar scholarship for tuition and fees at approved certificate providers including Ivy Tech Community Colleges. Available for students in select programs including: advanced manufacturing, construction, health services, IT & logistics.

Kentucky - Work Ready Scholarship Program	Last dollar scholarship for students working to earn eligible certificates or degrees at community colleges.
Maryland – Community College Promise	Last dollar scholarship for tuition and fees at public community colleges.
Missouri – A+ Scholarship	Last dollar scholarship that covers tuition and fees at public community college or vocational/technical school, or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools.
Nevada - Nevada Promise Scholarship	Last Dollar scholarship for students who attend public community colleges.
New York – Excelsior Program*	Provides last dollar funding for students who attend public institutions (both 2-year and 4-year). Includes a residency requirement upon graduation.
Oklahoma – Oklahoma Promise Program	Last dollar scholarship for public college and university students. Does not pay for remedial courses.
Oregon - Oregon Promise Grant Program	Last dollar scholarship for students who attend community colleges.
Rhode Island – Rhode Island Promise	Last dollar scholarship for up to two years of tuition and mandatory fees at public community colleges.
Tennessee - Tennessee Promise	Last dollar scholarship covering tuition and mandatory fees at public community colleges. Includes a mentoring program and community service requirements.

*Program also applies to 4-year institutions.

** [Louisiana](#) and [Kansas](#) passed legislation to create community college promise programs in 2021, but details of these programs have not been announced