

STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

State student financial aid disbursed during Fiscal Year 2021

| Program | Number of Scholarships/Grants | Dollar Amounts |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| A+ Scholarship | 14,809 | \$50,040,693 |
| Access Missouri Grant | 41,236 | \$60,452,770 |
| Advanced Placement Incentive Grant | 16 | \$8,000 |
| Bright Flight Scholarship | 7,840 | \$17,609,608 |
| Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant | 310 | \$1,274,255 |
| Kids' Chance Scholarship | 2 | \$8,000 |
| Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program | 8 | \$27,975 |
| Public Safety Officer Survivor Grants | 20 | \$134,329 |
| Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant | 25 | \$270,846 |
| Totals | 64,266 | \$129,826,476 |

A+ Scholarship Program (Section 160.545 RSMo)

The A+ Scholarship serves graduates of A+ designated high schools who meet certain academic and other requirements while in high school and attend a participating public community college or vocational/technical school, or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools. Award amounts are based on the student's actual tuition and general fees after the Pell Grant, or other federal, non-loan funding, has been applied.

Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program (Section 173.1101-1107, RSMo)

The Access Missouri Program provides need-based grants to students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$12,000 or less, based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Award amounts vary depending on a student's EFC as well as the type of school attended. In Fiscal Year 2021, actual maximum and minimum award amounts were \$910 and \$300, respectively, for students attending public two-year institutions. For students attending public four-year institutions, State Technical College of Missouri, independent and virtual institutions the maximum and minimum award amounts were \$2,000 and \$1,500, respectively.

Advanced Placement Incentive Grant (Section 173.1350, RSMo)

This is a nonrenewable grant designed to encourage high school students to take and score well on Advanced Placement exams in mathematics and science. To qualify for the \$500 award students must achieve a grade of three or higher on at least two designated Advanced Placement exams while attending a Missouri public high school. Students must also receive an award under the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program or the A+ Scholarship Program in the same academic year they receive this grant.

Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant (Section 173.2553-2554, RSMo)

Launched in August 2019, Fast Track provides tuition assistance to adults over 25 years of age, or individuals under 25 who have not been enrolled in education in at least two years. Grant recipients receive financial assistance to work toward a certificate, degree, or industry-recognized credential that fills a high-need skills gap. After graduation, students must live and work in Missouri for three years to prevent the grant from converting to a loan.

The average award amount in Fiscal Year 2021 was \$4,107. Allied health, business/accounting, and computer science were the most popular program areas among grant recipients.

Higher Education Academic Scholarship, or “Bright Flight” (Section 173.250, RSMo)

This is a merit-based scholarship for students who achieve an ACT or SAT score in the top 5 percent on or before the June test date of their senior year in high school. Award amounts are tiered based on whether the student’s score is in the top 3 percent or top fourth and fifth percentiles. The qualifying scores are determined at the beginning of the student’s senior year in high school and are based on the scores achieved by Missouri seniors in the preceding graduating class.

Eligible students scoring in the top 3 percent may receive up to \$3,000 annually. The annual award for students scoring in the top fourth and fifth percentiles is up to \$1,000 annually. Students qualifying in the top 3 percent must receive the maximum \$3,000 award before students in the top fourth and fifth percentiles can be funded.

To be eligible in the top 3 percent in Fiscal Year 2021, high school seniors had to achieve:

- An ACT score of 31 or better or
- An SAT score of 780 in critical reading AND 800 in math or better.

To be eligible in the top fourth and fifth percentiles in Fiscal Year 2021, high school seniors had to achieve:

- An ACT score of 30 or
- An SAT score of 770 to 779 in critical reading AND 790 to 799 in math

Students qualifying in the top 3 percent received a maximum award of \$2,400 in Fiscal Year 2021 due to funding reductions resulting from the state’s response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Since the students in the top 3 percent did not receive the maximum \$3,000 award, the students qualifying in the top fourth and fifth percentiles were not funded. Unfunded students that maintain their eligibility may receive an award in the future if funding becomes available.

Kids’ Chance Scholarship Program (Sections 173.254-173.258, RSMo)

This program, created in 1998, provides scholarships for the children of workers who were seriously injured or died in a work-related accident or from an occupational disease covered by workers’ compensation and compensable under chapter 287, RSMo. The scholarships are funded from the interest generated from the Kids’ Chance Scholarship Fund. The fund contains \$1 million in principal resulting from Division of Worker’s Compensation deposits of \$50,000 per year made between 1998 and the final deposit in October 2018, as required by legislation.

Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program (Section 173.240, RSMo)

This scholarship program assists academically talented minority and underrepresented individuals pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in an environmental course of study. Applicants are selected by the Minority Environmental Literacy Advisory committee based on academic achievement as evidenced by grade point average and standardized test scores, involvement in school and community activities, and leadership characteristics. MDHEWD determines award amounts based on the amount of funding appropriated to the program and the number of eligible applicants.

Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant Program (Section 173.260, RSMo)

This is a grant program for public safety officers who were permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. Children under 24 years of age who are dependents of officers or dependents of Missouri Department of Transportation employees engaged in the construction or maintenance of the state's highways, roads and bridges and were killed or totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty are also eligible. Eligibility also extends to spouses of officers killed or totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty. The maximum grant amount is the lesser of the actual tuition charged at the school in which the student is enrolled full time, or the amount of tuition charged an undergraduate Missouri resident enrolled full time in the same class level and academic major at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The grant may be renewed annually until the student obtains a baccalaureate degree or, in the case of a dependent child, until the student is 24 years of age, whichever occurs first.

Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant Program (Section 173.234, RSMo)

This program was designed to provide up to 25 grants for tuition assistance, room and board, and books for students who are survivors of post 9/11 war veterans whose deaths were a result of combat action or were attributable to an illness contracted while serving in combat, or who became at least 80 percent disabled as a result of injuries sustained in combat action. Although the Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant program became effective in 2008, the first award was made in 2011, which was the first year for which funds were appropriated for this program. FY 2021 was the fourth year in which the 25 recipient maximum was applicable.