

STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

State student financial aid disbursed during Fiscal Year 2020

Program	Number of Scholarships/Grants	Dollar Amounts
A+ Scholarship	13,493	\$42,873,454
Access Missouri Grant	43,282	\$68,431,975
Advanced Placement Incentive Grant	12	\$6,000
Bright Flight Scholarship	7,742	\$22,049,149
Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant	189	\$413,887
Kids' Chance Scholarship	2	\$8,400
Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy	9	\$30,035
Public Safety Officer Survivor Grants	21	\$116,575
Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship	71	\$197,851
Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant	25	\$287,037
Totals	64,846	\$134,414,363

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 2020, actual maximum and minimum award amounts were \$980 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 \$2,140 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.

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 2020, high school seniors had to achieve:

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

To be eligible in the top fourth and fifth percentiles in Fiscal Year 2020, high school seniors had to achieve:

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

Although the students qualifying in the top 3 percent received the maximum \$3,000 award in Fiscal Year 2020, program funding was insufficient to fund the students qualifying in the top fourth and fifth percentiles. 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.

Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship Program (Section 173.262, RSMo)

This scholarship, originally referred to as the Competitiveness Scholarship Program, is for students who are enrolled part time (six to 11 credit hours) and who are working at least 20 hours per week. Students must demonstrate financial need to qualify. The scholarship may be renewed annually for 150 semester credit hours or until students earn a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first. The maximum award is the lesser of the actual tuition charged at the school in which the student is enrolled part time, or the amount of tuition charged an undergraduate Missouri resident enrolled part time in the same class level and academic major at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The actual tuition charged is based on six credit hours for students enrolled in six, seven or eight credit hours and nine credit hours for students enrolled in nine, 10 or 11 credit hours.

The Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship, Advanced Placement Incentive Grant, Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant, and Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant programs are combined into a single line item appropriation. This allows any unspent funds from these programs, after awards are made to all eligible applicants to be used in the Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship ended in FY 2020.

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. Spouses of officers killed or totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty are also eligible. 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 2020 was the third year in which the 25 recipient maximum was applicable.

Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant

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.

In the program's first year, the average award amount was \$2,189. Allied health, education, and computer science were the most popular program areas among grant recipients.