



# Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program

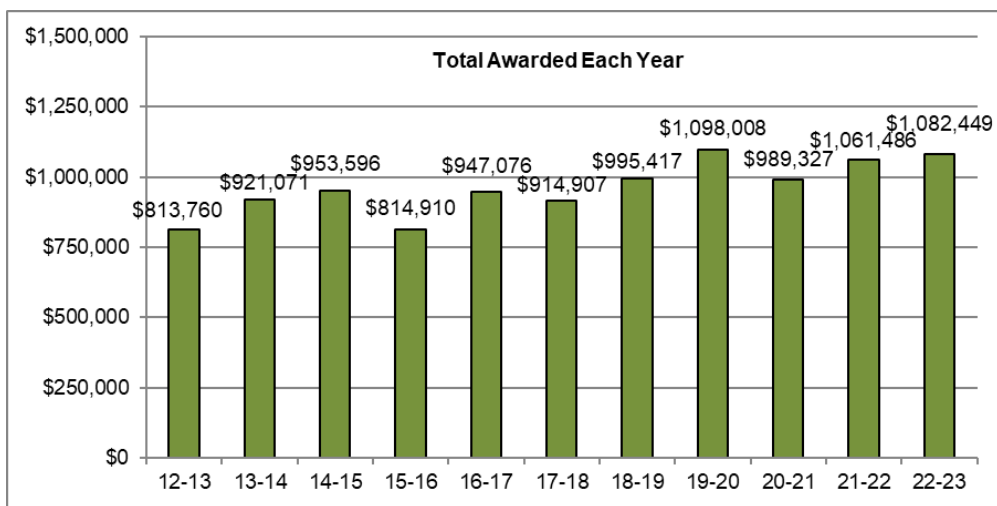
January 2024

## Overview

The Access College Early (ACE) scholarship program awards scholarships to Nebraska low-income high school students who enroll in a college course at a participating public or private postsecondary institution. Research shows that high school students who take college courses while in high school remain in school and graduate at higher rates and enroll in college at increased rates.

## By the Numbers (2022-23)

- 2,635** — Students who received ACE scholarships
- 214** — Nebraska high schools that participated in the ACE program
- 18** — Nebraska colleges and universities that participated in the ACE program
- \$182** — Average amount of an ACE scholarship (covers one course)

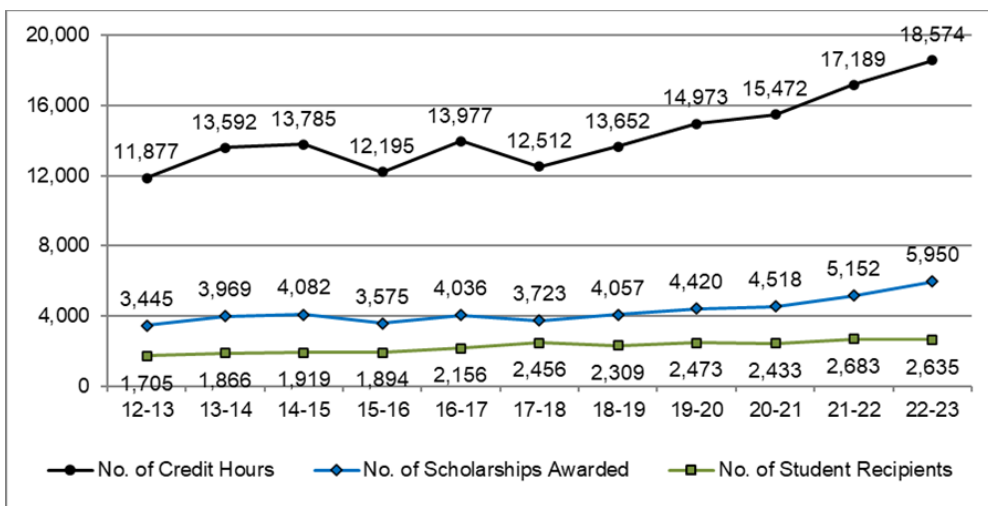


## Funding

Between 2012-13 and 2015-16, the ACE program was funded through a combination of state General funds and federal funds. When the federal grant ended in 2015-16, the General fund became the sole source of ACE funding with \$1,500,000 being appropriated for 2023-24.

## Rising Demand

Over 2,600 students received ACE scholarships in 2022-23, a decrease of 48 students from the previous year. Most students qualify for ACE by qualifying for the federal free and reduced lunch program. In Nebraska, 50 percent of PK-12 public school students qualified for free and reduced lunch in 2022-23, up from 44 percent in 2012-13.



## Proven Success

The percentage of ACE recipients who go on to college.\*

**81 vs. 48**

The percentage of low-income non-ACE recipients who go on to college.\*

\*2021-22 public high school graduates