

Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program

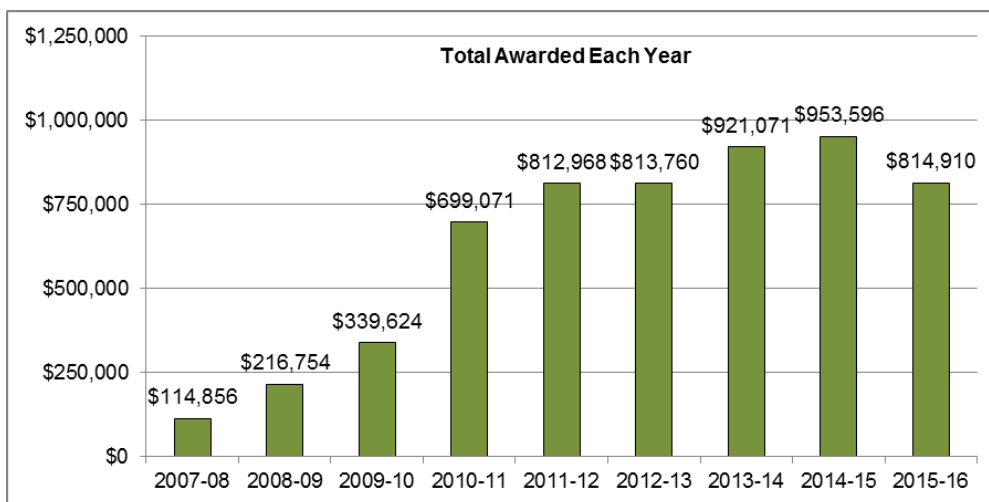
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Overview

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 (2015-16)

- 1,894** — Students who received ACE scholarships
- 204** — Nebraska high schools that participated in the ACE program
- 17** — Nebraska colleges and universities that participated in the ACE program
- \$227.95** — Average amount of an ACE scholarship (covers one course)

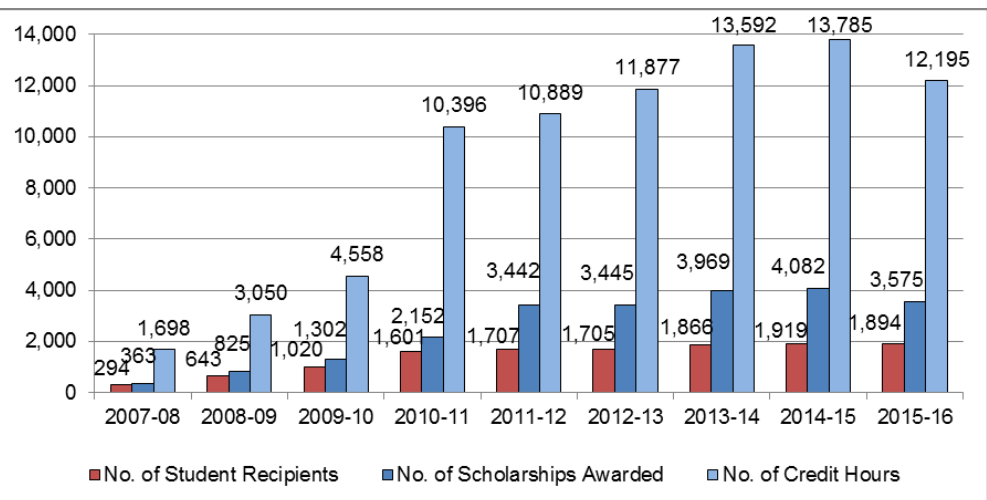


Funding

The ACE program is funded entirely through State funds. In 2014-15, State General fund appropriations accounted for 71 percent, or \$681,706, of ACE funding, with the remaining funds coming from a now-defunct federal grant. In 2016, the Legislature voted for an increase of \$250,000 for 2016-17, to \$985,000.

Rising Demand

Nearly 1,900 students received ACE scholarships in 2015-16, a slight decrease from the previous year due to reduced funds. Most students qualify for ACE by qualifying for the federal free and reduced lunch program. In Nebraska, 44 percent of PK-12 students qualify for free and reduced lunch; that percentage has increased every year except one since 2006-07.



Proven Success

The percentage of ACE recipients who go on to college.

82 vs. 52

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

*2014-15 public school graduates