

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 648

5 By: Senator L. Eads  
6 By: Representative Bragg  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CHALLENGE PLUS  
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

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14 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CHALLENGE PLUS  
15 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, is amended to add an  
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

22 Subchapter 5 – Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship Program  
23

24 6-85-501. Creation.

25 There is created and established the Arkansas Challenge Plus  
26 Scholarship Program.  
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28 6-85-502. Eligibility.

29 A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship  
30 under this subchapter for an academic semester or academic year if the  
31 student:

32 (1) Applies for and maintains eligibility for a scholarship  
33 under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et  
34 seq.; and

35 (2) Demonstrates financial need as determined by the Free  
36 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



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2 6-85-503. Award of scholarship.

3 (a) An Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship under this subchapter shall  
4 be awarded to eligible applicants:

5 (1) In addition to a scholarship awarded under the Arkansas  
6 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq.;

7 (2) Based on the amount of financial need as determined by the  
8 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

9 (3) As determined by the Division of Higher Education if  
10 sufficient funds are available; and

11 (4)(A) In increments of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per  
12 eligible student per academic year, with a maximum of four thousand dollars  
13 (\$4,000) per eligible student per academic year, as determined by the  
14 division.

15 (B) The sum of an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship  
16 under this subchapter and an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under §  
17 6-85-201 et seq. shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) total per  
18 eligible student per academic year.

19 (C) Scholarship amounts awarded under this subchapter may  
20 vary each year depending on the amount of funding available.

21 (b)(1) Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarships under this subchapter  
22 shall be funded by available net proceeds remaining from the previous  
23 academic year after the Office of the Arkansas Lottery:

24 (A) Transfers the funds requested by the division under §  
25 23-115-801(c)(2); and

26 (B) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the  
27 Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 in an amount  
28 equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

29 (2) However, an Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship under this  
30 subchapter shall not be awarded for an academic year if:

31 (A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
32 (\$250,000) is available under subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section; or

33 (B) The division received a loan from the account under §  
34 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-  
35 201 et seq., for the previous academic year.

36 (3) The total amount of scholarships awarded under this

1 subchapter shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for  
2 academic year 2021-2022.

3  
4 6-85-504. Authority.

5 (a) The Division of Higher Education shall administer the Arkansas  
6 Challenge Plus Scholarship Program under this subchapter.

7 (b) The division may promulgate rules to administer the program under  
8 this subchapter.

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10 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after July 1,  
11 2022.