

Opportunity Scholarships (AB165)

Program Description

AB165 created the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program (often referred to as Opportunity Scholarships), which became effective July 1, 2015. This program allows a student whose family has a household income not more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level to apply for a scholarship, not to exceed \$7,763.00 from an approved scholarship organization. The scholarship allows the parents or guardians to send their child(ren) to a private school of their choice if that school has registered to participate and agreed to sending reports including one addressing academic progress of students receiving scholarships. The scholarship may also be used to pay the fees for distance education programs and/or dual credit programs in our public schools.

The program is funded by taxpayer donations allowing any taxpayer who is required to pay the Modified Business Tax to receive a credit against the tax otherwise due. Prior to making the donation the scholarship grant organization must get the donation amount approved by the Nevada Department of Taxation. During the first school year 2015-16, the Department of Taxation approved 54 donations for a total of \$5,000,000.00. All money was received by November 18, 2015. School year 2016-17 saw donations totaling \$5,500,000.00 approved and received by the middle of July 2016.

NRS 388D and NAC 385.6013 address the regulations and guidelines. The following charts provide a summary of the participating scholarship organizations and schools and of the scholarships that have been awarded during 2016-2017.

	March 2016	January 2017
Active Scholarship Grant Organizations	3	3
Registered Schools	83	90
Total Number of Private Schools	145	140
Number of Schools with Scholarship Recipients	77	64
Total Scholarship Grants Awarded	541	1,153

The number of grants awarded is a fluid number as sometimes after a grant is made the student does not enroll in the private school, or the family moves or the family may decide to change schools.

School Year 2016-2017	AAA Foundation	#	Education Fund of N. NV	#	Dinosaurs & Roses	#	Totals
Scholarships Awarded	384	-	442	-	327	-	1,153
Student withdrawals	7*	-	13*	-	20*	-	40*
Smallest Award	\$3,750.00	34	\$263.00	3	\$600.00	1	-
Middle Award	\$5,625.00	61	\$4,900.00	14	\$4,000.00	6 3	-
Largest Award	\$7,500.00	282	\$7,000.00	10 7	\$7,755.00	3 2	-
Average Award	\$6,858.00	-	\$4,916.00	-	\$4,329.00	-	-
Number of donations/gifts/grants	6	-	21	-	24	-	51
Amount of \$ received	\$1,564,500.00	-	\$2,699,500.00	-	\$1,236,000.00	-	\$5,500,000
Payments as of 12/31/16	1,211,375.07	-	1,046,709.33	-	651,561.75	-	2,909,646.15

*Excluded from all further counts

	AAA Foundation	Education Fund of N. NV	Dinosaurs & Roses
Household Income – Low	\$6,272.00	(\$1,301,430.00)	\$8,325.00
Household Income - High	\$78,745.00	\$109,302.00	\$107,155.00

Reported race/ethnicity of students awarded scholarships

	AAA* Foundation	Education Fund of N. NV	Dinosaurs & Roses	Totals
African American	52	53	36	141
Asian	49	36	23	108
Caucasian	109	184	123	416
Hispanic	121	120	117	358
Native American	1	5	0	6
Native Hawaiian/OPI	0	11	0	11
Mixed Race	43	14	6	63
Not Reported	2	6	2	10
Totals	377	429	307	1,113

Grade level of students awarded scholarships

	AAA* Foundation	Education Fund of N. NV	Dinosaurs & Roses	TOTALS
Kindergarten	35	38	33	108
First	44	35	45	124
Second	43	43	42	130
Third	45	35	32	112
Fourth	46	34	26	108
Fifth	29	18	31	80
Sixth	31	41	30	104
Seventh	19	30	23	72
Eighth	31	25	21	77
Ninth	20	43	13	78
Tenth	8	44	5	58
Eleventh	15	22	6	44
Twelfth	11	21	0	32
Totals	377	429	307	1,113
Disabled Students	6	4	9	19

The maximum scholarship award permitted for the 2016-2017 school year was determined by the Business & Support Services Division of NDE based on the Consumer Price Index. In 2015-2016 it was \$7,755.00 and in 2016-2017 the maximum award is \$7,763.00. The maximum award for future school years is to be determined by May 1st of the preceding school year.

There are four registered and approved Scholarship Grant Organizations for the coming school year. These groups determine when applications are available and when they are due. The Scholarship Grant Organizations review the applications, award scholarships and notify families as well as the school.