

**EARN Scholarship  
Report for the 2009-10 Academic Year  
Final Report  
November 15, 2010**

The Early Access Rewards North Carolina (EARN) Scholarship program was established in 2007 by the NC General Assembly and the first funds were paid to eligible students for the 2008-09 academic year. EARN was proposed by Governor Easley to provide a grant of \$4,000 to replace loans for dependent students (and foster youth considered to be independent of their families) whose family incomes were 200% of the federal poverty guidelines or less. EARN Scholarships were limited to funding the first two years of college for each eligible student. The program was repealed during the 2009 session of the General Assembly effective July 1, 2010 with awards limited to \$2,000 only for the 2009 fall semester of the 2009-10 academic year.

For the 2009 fall semester, 22,288 students received a total of \$44,401,620.

Eligible institutions include the University of North Carolina, North Carolina Community Colleges, and independent non-profit institutions as defined in 116-22(1). Below is a breakdown of the funds that were allocated to student by type of institution. Campus-specific information is included in Appendix B.

	Students	Awards	% Of Total
UNC Institutions	10,104	\$20,090,435	45.24%
NC Community Colleges	8,649	\$17,270,856	38.89%
NC Independent Colleges	<u>3,535</u>	<u>\$7,040,329</u>	<u>15.85%</u>
	22,288	\$44,401,620	100 %

## Appendix A Awards by County of Residence

County	Number of Students	Amount	County	Number of Students	Amount
Alamance	395	789,136.00	Guilford	1,348	2,682,084.00
Alexander	65	129,947.00	Halifax	305	606,118.00
Alleghany	34	67,457.00	Harnett	248	494,504.00
Anson	75	148,066.00	Haywood	107	214,000.00
Ashe	62	124,000.00	Henderson	188	374,630.00
Avery	27	54,000.00	Hertford	120	240,000.00
Beaufort	171	328,612.00	Hoke	102	202,554.00
Bertie	96	192,000.00	Hyde	19	37,619.00
Bladen	172	343,878.00	Iredell	317	632,313.00
Brunswick	208	416,000.00	Jackson	47	94,000.00
Buncombe	336	667,925.00	Johnston	285	570,000.00
Burke	334	664,721.00	Jones	41	82,000.00
Cabarrus	327	654,000.00	Lee	166	326,863.00
Caldwell	295	587,045.00	Lenoir	231	459,509.00
Camden	19	38,000.00	Lincoln	143	282,692.00
Carteret	136	270,282.00	McDowell	114	227,020.00
Caswell	61	122,000.00	Macon	69	136,492.00
Catawba	442	882,456.00	Madison	35	70,000.00
Chatham	117	233,844.00	Martin	103	205,226.00
Cherokee	81	161,328.00	Mecklenburg	1,903	3,795,024.00
Chowan	52	103,750.00	Mitchell	22	44,000.00
Clay	29	58,000.00	Montgomery	70	139,720.00
Cleveland	308	612,794.00	Moore	181	361,414.00
Columbus	279	551,790.00	Nash	346	689,191.00
Craven	180	358,029.00	Hew Hanover	369	737,078.00
Cumberland	800	1,595,799.00	Northampton	106	211,000.00
Currituck	40	79,799.00	Onslow	315	626,814.00
Dare	70	140,000.00	Orange	190	380,000.00
Davidson	327	651,576.00	Pamlico	43	83,651.00
Davie	56	112,000.00	Pasquotank	126	252,000.00
Duplin	151	301,672.00	Pender	139	278,000.00
Durham	591	1,180,094.00	Perquimans	38	74,596.00
Edgecombe	267	532,829.00	Person	122	242,794.00
Forsyth	835	1,661,272.00	Pitt	413	823,080.00
Franklin	149	298,000.00	Polk	41	81,862.00
Gaston	464	926,322.00	Randolph	234	466,547.00
Gates	41	80,972.00	Richmond	190	378,100.00
Graham	23	46,000.00	Robeson	509	1,013,173.00

Granville	128	254,291.00	Rockingham	231	460,861.00
Greene	54	105,838.00	Rowan	312	623,625.00
Rutherford	215	428,244.00	Wake	1,306	2,606,795.00
Sampson	177	353,625.00	Warren	79	156,828.00
Scotland	141	282,000.00	Washington	81	159,975.00
Stanly	164	325,386.00	Watauga	70	139,167.00
Stokes	81	161,499.00	Wayne	401	800,111.00
Surry	175	344,671.00	Wilkes	145	289,625.00
Swain	30	60,000.00	Wilson	258	515,260.00
Transylvania	55	109,656.00	Yadkin	79	156,021.00
Tyrrell	12	23,750.00	Yancey	36	72,000.00
Union	361	719,854.00	Unknown	49	97,196.00
Vance	188	374,279.00			

**Total                                      22,288    \$44,401,620.00**

Note: the total number of students reported by county does not equal the total number of students overall because mid-year transfers may have changed residences and thus are counted once in each county for each semester.

**Appendix B: Awards by Institution**

Number of Students

Amount

Percentage

**UNC Institutions**

Appalachian State University	410	811,796.00	1.82
East Carolina University	887	1,760,718.00	3.96
Elizabeth City State University	487	973,309.00	2.19
Fayetteville State University	573	1,144,216.00	2.57
NC A&T State University	1,166	2,321,099.00	5.22
NC Central University	954	1,906,000.00	4.29
NC State University	822	1,631,285.00	3.67
UNC Asheville	103	203,260.00	0.45
UNC Chapel Hill	505	1,003,395.00	2.25
UNC Charlotte	889	1,778,000.00	4
UNC Greensboro	1,015	2,007,222.00	4.52
UNC Pembroke	658	1,309,251.00	2.94
UNC School Of The Arts	23	44,158.00	0.09
UNC Wilmington	320	628,163.00	1.41
Western Carolina University	414	827,290.00	1.86
Winston Salem State University	<u>878</u>	<u>1,741,273.00</u>	<u>3.92</u>

**UNC Sub-Total****10,104****\$20,090,435.00****45.24%****NC Community Colleges**

Alamance Community College	188	376,000.00	0.84
Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College	141	282,000.00	0.63
Beaufort County Community College	102	189,783.00	0.42
Bladen Community College	102	204,000.00	0.45
Blue Ridge Community College	121	241,579.00	0.54
Brunswick Community College	98	196,000.00	0.44
Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute	296	592,000.00	1.33
Cape Fear Community College	332	664,000.00	1.49
Carteret Community College	75	150,000.00	0.33
Catawba Valley Community College	235	470,000.00	1.05
Central Carolina Community College	143	286,000.00	0.64
Central Piedmont Community College	585	1,170,000.00	2.63
Cleveland Community College	124	248,000.00	0.55
Coastal Carolina Community College	131	261,985.00	0.59
College of the Albemarle	98	194,395.00	0.43
Craven Community College	67	134,000.00	0.3
Davidson County Community College	166	332,000.00	0.74
Durham Technical Community College	167	334,000.00	0.75
Edgecombe Community College	152	304,000.00	0.68

Fayetteville Technical Community College	145	290,000.00	0.65
Forsyth Technical Community College	260	517,092.00	1.16
Gaston College	190	377,065.00	0.84
Guilford Technical Community College	496	992,000.00	2.23
Halifax Community College	109	218,000.00	0.49
Haywood Community College	81	162,000.00	0.36
Isothermal Community College	142	284,000.00	0.63
James Sprunt Community College	25	49,672.00	0.11
Johnston Community College	151	302,000.00	0.68
Lenoir Community College	132	262,749.00	0.59
Martin Community College	36	72,000.00	0.16
Mayland Community College	30	60,000.00	0.13
McDowell Technical Community College	70	140,000.00	0.31
Mitchell Community College	108	216,000.00	0.48
Montgomery Community College	23	46,000.00	0.1
Nash Community College	136	272,000.00	0.61
Pamlico Community College	8	16,000.00	0.03
Piedmont Community College	105	210,000.00	0.47
Pitt Community College	351	702,000.00	1.58
Randolph Community College	95	190,000.00	0.42
Richmond Community College	88	176,000.00	0.39
Roanoke-Chowan Community College	43	86,000.00	0.19
Robeson Community College	145	290,000.00	0.65
Rockingham Community College	106	212,000.00	0.47
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	240	480,000.00	1.08
Sampson Community College	60	120,000.00	0.27
Sandhills Community College	205	410,000.00	0.92
South Piedmont Community College	42	84,000.00	0.18
Southeastern Community College	200	400,000.00	0.9
Southwestern Community College	97	193,010.00	0.43
Stanly Community College	93	186,000.00	0.41
Surry Community College	140	277,526.00	0.62
Tri-County Community College	72	144,000.00	0.32
Vance-Granville Community College	162	324,000.00	0.72
Wake Technical Community College	287	574,000.00	1.29
Wayne Community College	186	372,000.00	0.83
Western Piedmont Community College	213	426,000.00	0.95
Wilkes Community College	168	336,000.00	0.75
Wilson Community College	<u>86</u>	<u>172,000.00</u>	<u>0.38</u>
<b>NC Community College Sub-Total</b>	<b>8,649</b>	<b>\$17,270,856.00</b>	<b>38.89%</b>

**NC Independent Colleges**

Barton College	105	210,000.00	0.47
Belmont Abbey College	53	104,140.00	0.23
Bennett College	50	100,000.00	0.22
Brevard College	29	58,000.00	0.13
Cabarrus College Of Health Sciences	6	12,000.00	0.02
Campbell University	195	388,320.00	0.87
Catawba College	67	134,000.00	0.3
Chowan University	122	238,879.00	0.53
Davidson College	15	30,000.00	0.06
Duke University	46	92,000.00	0.2
Elon University	36	72,000.00	0.16
Gardner Webb University	91	178,460.00	0.4
Greensboro College	62	124,000.00	0.27
Guilford College	85	170,000.00	0.38
High Point University	52	104,000.00	0.23
Johnson & Wales University	134	263,673.00	0.59
Johnson C Smith University	112	224,000.00	0.5
Lees McRae College	48	96,000.00	0.21
Lenoir Rhyne University	136	272,000.00	0.61
Livingstone College	264	528,000.00	1.18
Louisburg College	221	433,334.00	0.97
Mars Hill College	137	272,020.00	0.61
Meredith College	141	282,000.00	0.63
Methodist University	126	252,000.00	0.56
Montreat College	32	64,000.00	0.14
Mount Olive College	121	242,000.00	0.54
NC Wesleyan College	130	260,000.00	0.58
Peace College	103	206,000.00	0.46
Pfeiffer University	73	146,000.00	0.32
Queens University Of Charlotte	59	118,000.00	0.26
Salem College	32	64,000.00	0.14
Shaw University	230	460,000.00	1.03
St Andrews Presbyterian College	20	40,000.00	0.09
St Augustine's College	203	406,000.00	0.91
Wake Forest University	49	98,000.00	0.22
Warren Wilson College	16	32,000.00	0.07
Wingate University	<u>134</u>	<u>265,503.00</u>	<u>0.59</u>

<b>NC Independent College Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,535</b>	<b>\$7,040,329.00</b>	<b>15.86%</b>
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22,288</b>	<b>\$44,401,620</b>	<b>100%</b>
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**§ 116-209.26. Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund.**

(a) The following definitions apply to this section:

- (1) Academic year. – A period of time in which a student in matriculated status is expected to complete the equivalent of at least two semesters' or three quarters' academic work.
- (2) Eligible postsecondary institution. – A school that is any of the following:
  - a. A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as defined in G.S. 116-2(4);
  - b. A community college as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2); or
  - c. An institution as defined in G.S. 116-22(1).
- (3) Matriculated status. – Being recognized as a first-time candidate for a degree or certificate, exclusive of any course credits earned while in high school, in a defined program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution.
- (4) Title IV. – Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

(b) There is established the Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to certain eligible students to enable them to obtain an education beyond the high school level at certain postsecondary institutions in North Carolina without incurring student loans to meet their financial need during the first two years of their postsecondary education. The State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) shall administer the Fund.

(c) Criteria for awarding the grants shall be developed by the SEAA and include all of the following:

- (1) The student must qualify as a legal resident of North Carolina, a legal resident of the United States, and as a resident for tuition purposes in accordance with G.S. 116-143.1.
- (2) Within seven months of the fiscal year in which the grant is to be disbursed, the student must have:
  - a. Graduated from a North Carolina high school;
  - b. Received a General Education Development (GED) certificate from a North Carolina institution; or
  - c. Completed a high school education in a home school setting meeting the qualifications and requirements under G.S. 115C-564.
- (3) The student must meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated status on a full-time basis at an eligible postsecondary institution in North Carolina.
- (4) The student must be an eligible dependent student. For purposes of this subdivision, an "eligible dependent student" is a student who:
  - a. Either is classified as dependent for the Title IV programs or is a ward or dependent of the court; and
  - b. Demonstrates total family income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of the applicable federal poverty guideline, according to standards set by the SEAA and measured using data elements available to the SEAA from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or such other source as the SEAA may deem appropriate.
- (5) The student must meet all other eligibility requirements for the federal Pell Grant.
- (6) In order to retain eligibility for a grant for the student's second academic year, the student must meet achievement standards by maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with the standards and practices used for Title IV programs by the eligible postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

- (7) The student may not receive a grant in an amount that, when combined with the federal Pell Grant, exceeds the student's cost of attendance as defined under Title IV.
- (8) The student may not receive a grant under this section for more than the equivalent of two academic years.

(d) The maximum grant for which a student is eligible under this section shall be four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per academic year. In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible student with the maximum grant, it is the intent of the General Assembly that eligible students who have matriculated into an eligible postsecondary institution in North Carolina with at least one academic year of college credit receive the maximum grant amount and all other eligible students shall receive a reduced grant amount.

(e) The grants provided for in this section shall be administered by the State Education Assistance Authority pursuant to rules adopted by the SEAA not inconsistent with this section.

(f) The State Education Assistance Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 1, 2009, and by each December 1 thereafter, regarding the Fund and grants awarded from the Fund.

(g) Grant funds unexpended shall remain available to the SEAA for future grants to be awarded under this section.

(h) No funds appropriated from the Escheat Fund to the Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund shall be used for a grant awarded under this section to a student who is an undergraduate student at an institution as defined in G.S. 116-22(1); however, funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund may be used for a grant awarded under this section to a student who is an undergraduate student at an institution as defined in G.S. 116-22(1). (2007-323, s. 9.7(a); 2008-107, s. 9.2(a), (b).)



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**  
**SESSION LAW 2009-451**  
**SENATE BILL 202**

AN ACT TO MAKE BASE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTIONS, AND AGENCIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

. . . . .

**THE EDUCATION ACCESS REWARDS NORTH CAROLINA SCHOLARS FUND  
REDUCE/MAXIMUM GRANT AWARDS FOR 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR AND  
REPEAL EARN SCHOLARS FUND IN 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR.**

**SECTION 9.2.(a)** Of the funds appropriated by this act from the General Fund to the State Education Assistance Authority the sum of sixteen million two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$16,225,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year shall be allocated to the Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund (EARN).

**SECTION 9.2.(b)** There is appropriated from the Escheat Fund to the State Education Assistance Authority the sum of thirty-seven million four hundred eighty-nine thousand dollars (\$37,489,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year to be allocated to EARN.

**SECTION 9.2.(c)** The funds appropriated in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be used only to fund EARN grants for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**SECTION 9.2.(d)** Notwithstanding G.S. 116-209.26(d), the maximum grant for which a student is eligible for an EARN Scholarship shall be two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the 2009-2010 academic year. The State Education Assistance Authority shall pay the full amount of the grants awarded pursuant to this section in the 2009-2010 fall academic semester.

**SECTION 9.2.(e)** Effective July 1, 2010, G.S. 116-209.26 is repealed.

**SECTION 9.2.(f)** The campus financial aid offices at each eligible postsecondary institution as defined in G.S. 116-209.26 are encouraged to work with EARN recipients to secure replacement financial aid for the 2010-2011 academic year and appropriate subsequent academic years.