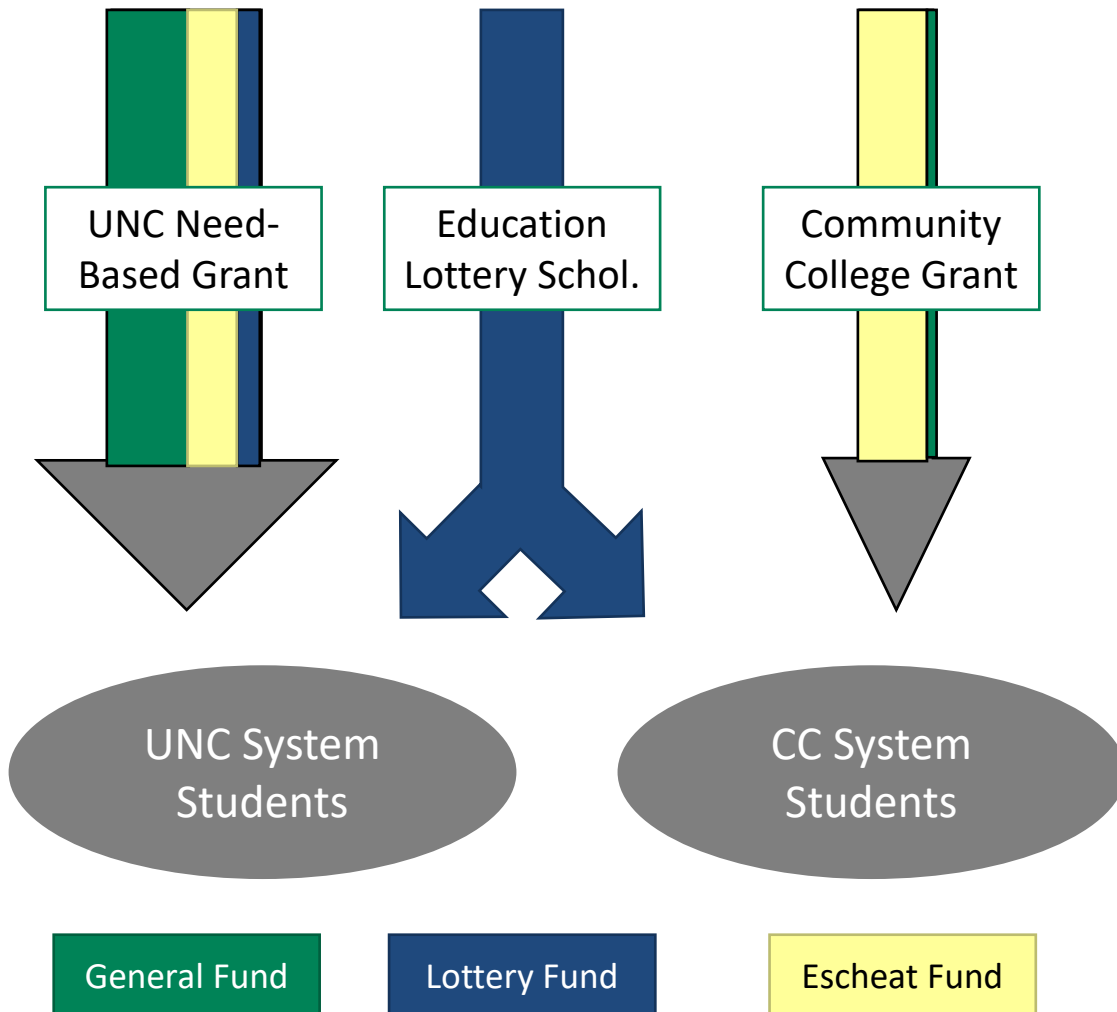


# Consolidation & Simplification of State Grants

Andrea Poole, Executive Director

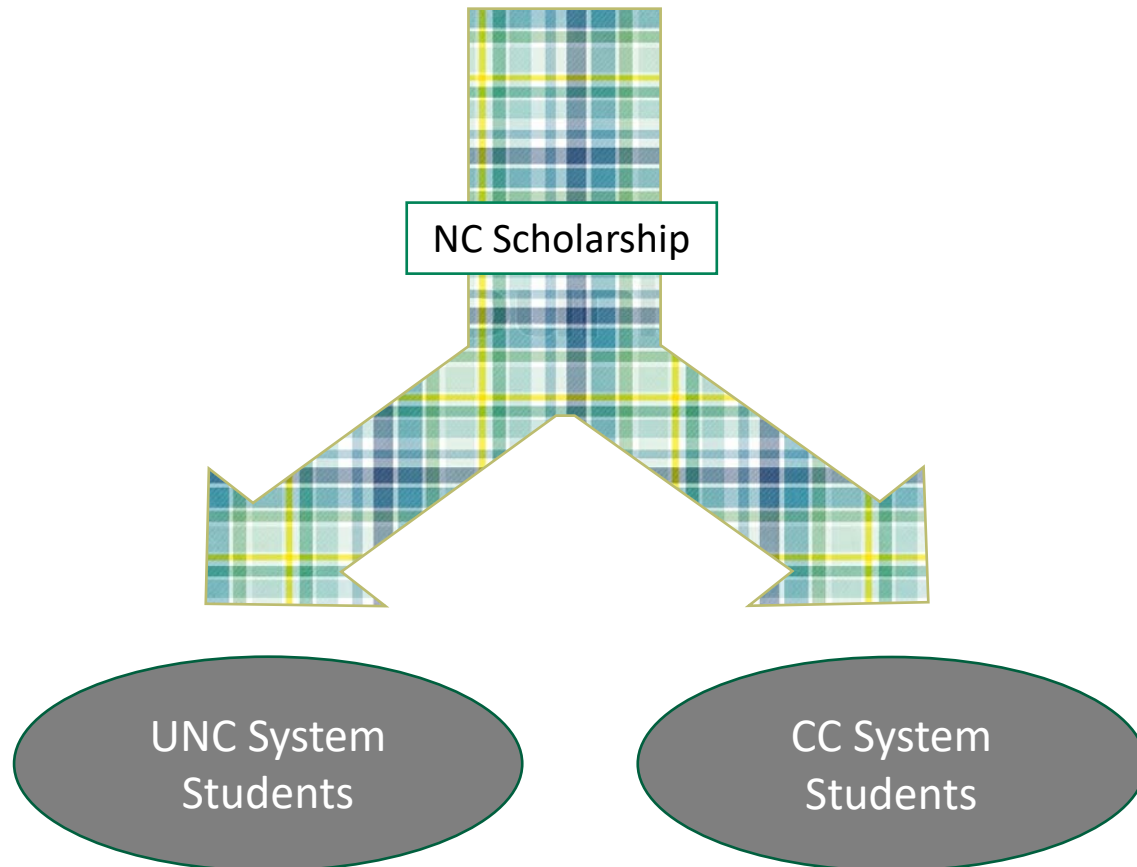
October 5, 2022

# Consolidation & Simplification of Public Higher Education Grants



State-funded public higher education financial aid programs – Community College Grant, UNC Need-Based Grant, Education Lottery Scholarship – total close to \$180 million but were ***too complicated, unpredictable, and confusing.***

- Different eligibility requirements
- Different calculations for determining aid
- Different funding sources
- Served slightly different but overlapping populations



**Sec. 8A.2 of SL 2021-180** consolidated these grants into a single need-based financial aid program that is *simpler, user friendly, and allows students and families to learn about options and eligibility earlier in the process*

- Top legislative priority for SEAA and supported by the UNC System and the Community College System
- UNC System President and Community College System President jointly develop a formula and payment schedule that is *consistent, transparent, and focused on student need*

- Roll out for the **2023-2024 academic year**
- Scholarship designed within **existing grant funds with sector funding protected**
- UNC and Community Colleges have agreed upon a **consolidated payment schedule**
- The budget also provided funds for **public awareness campaign** to inform students, families, and high schools about the simplified grant
- State-funded need-based aid is based on the student's Pell eligibility. In 2024-2025, the calculation for Pell will move from Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to a Student Aid Index (SAI) so **some additional formula revisions will be necessary**

## Base Guarantee

Students from families that report Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) under **\$75,000** who have financial need (EFC under **\$8,000**) will be guaranteed to receive state and federal aid of at least **\$2,800 (NCCCS)** or **\$5,000 (UNC)**.

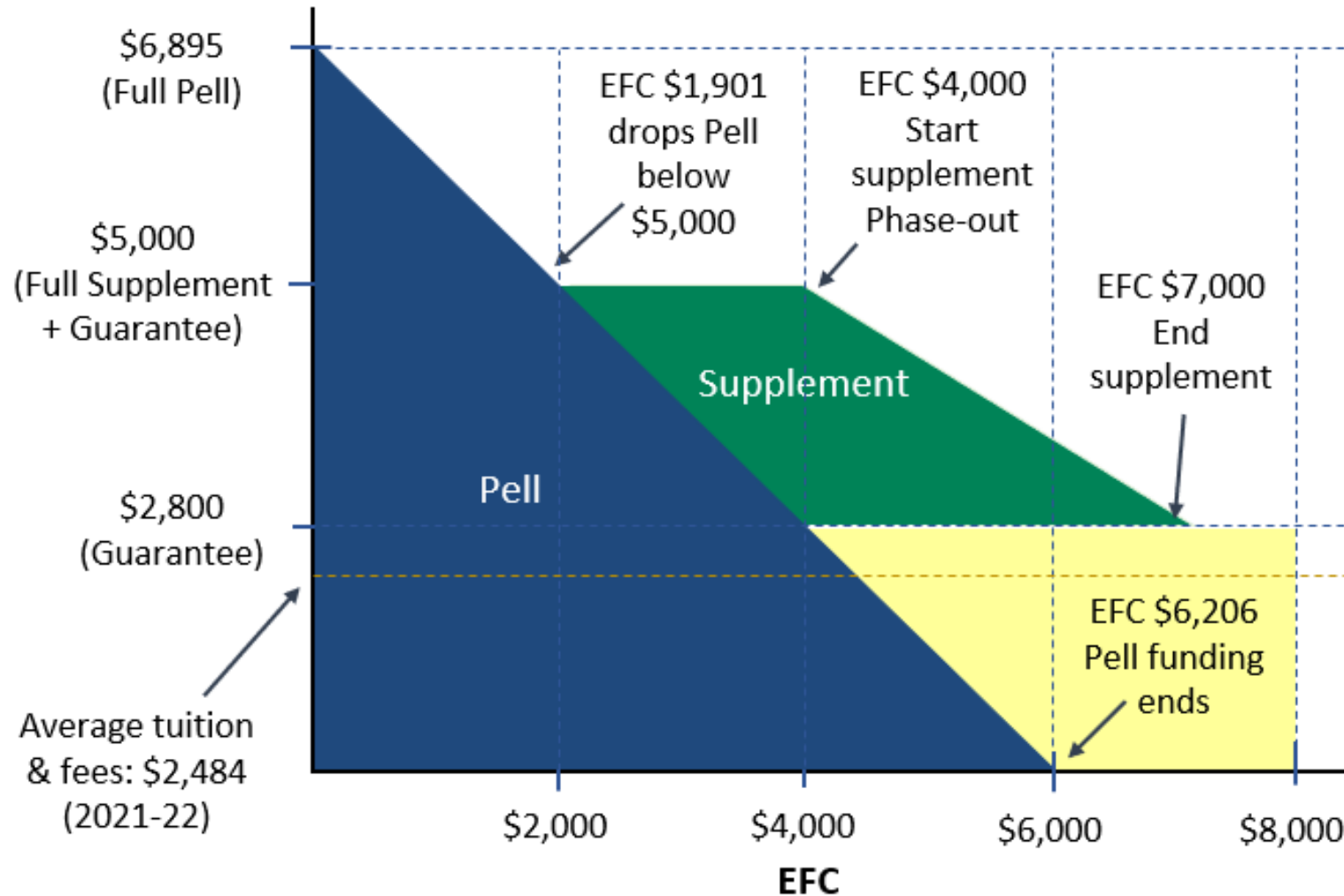
## Need-based Supplement

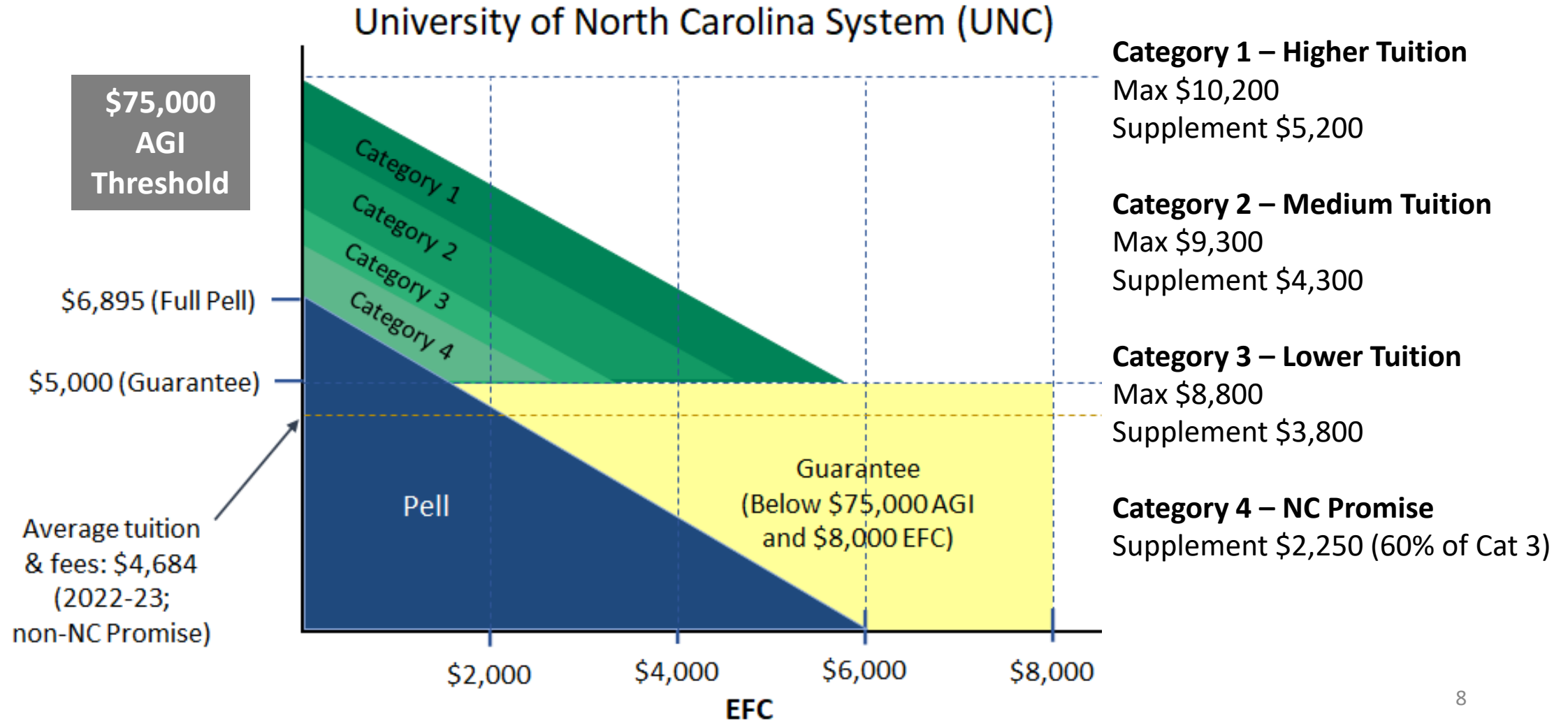
- Additional aid will be available for the lowest income students in both Systems.
- The need-based supplement will be based on need and cost of attendance.



## North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS)

**\$75,000  
AGI  
Threshold**

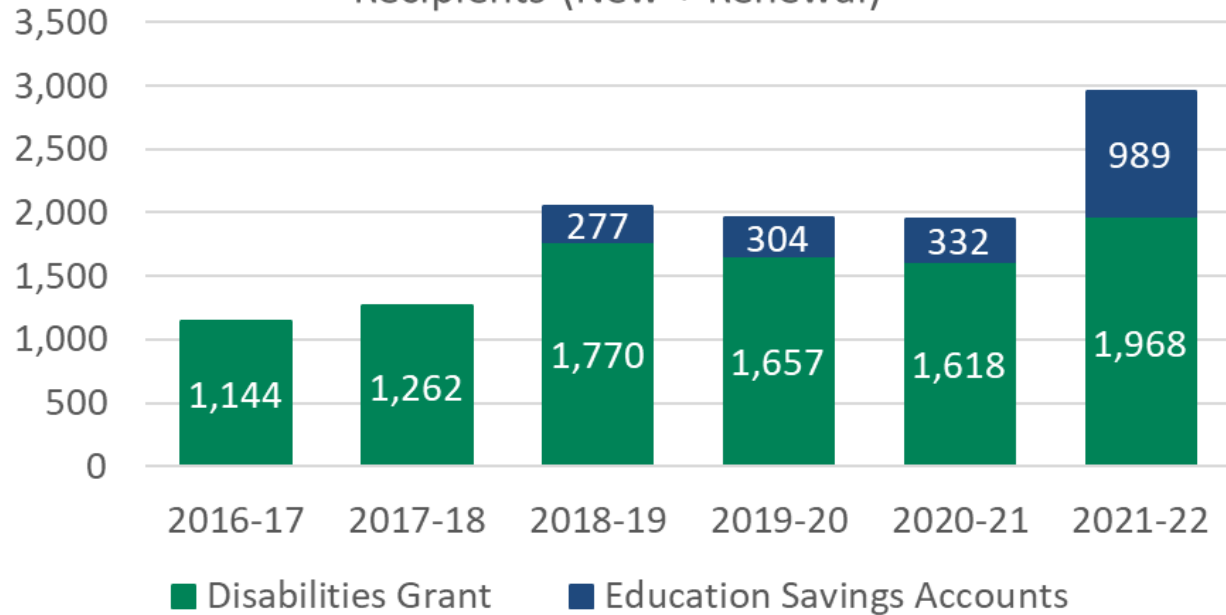




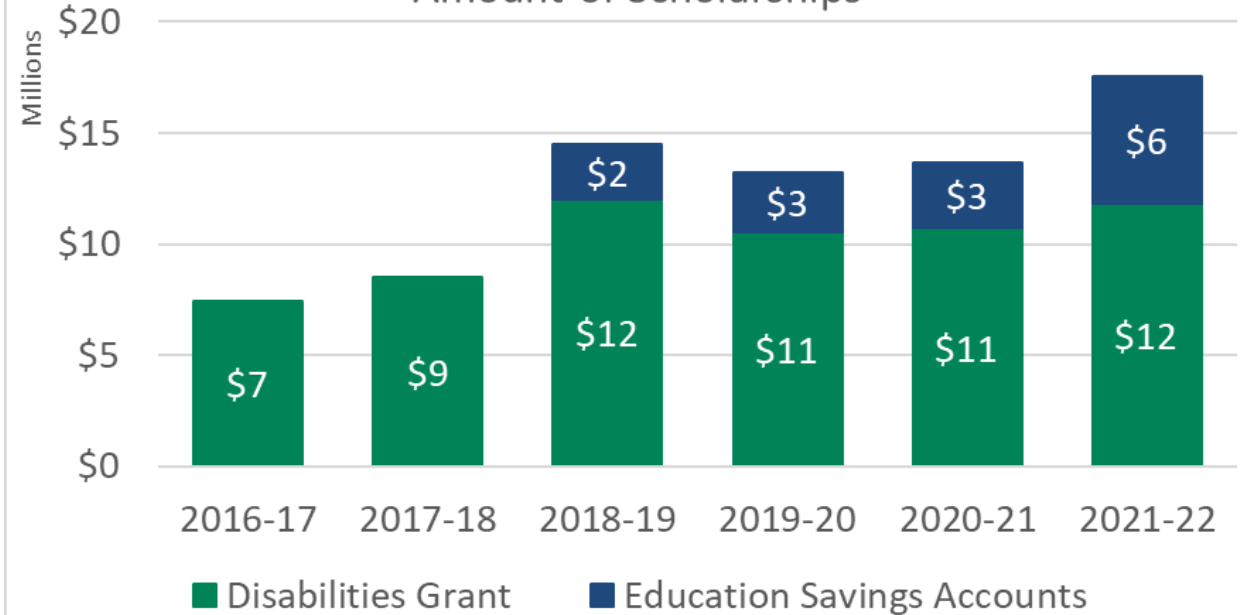


# Consolidation & Simplification of Programs for Non-Public K-12 Students with Disabilities

**Students with Disabilities**  
Recipients (New + Renewal)

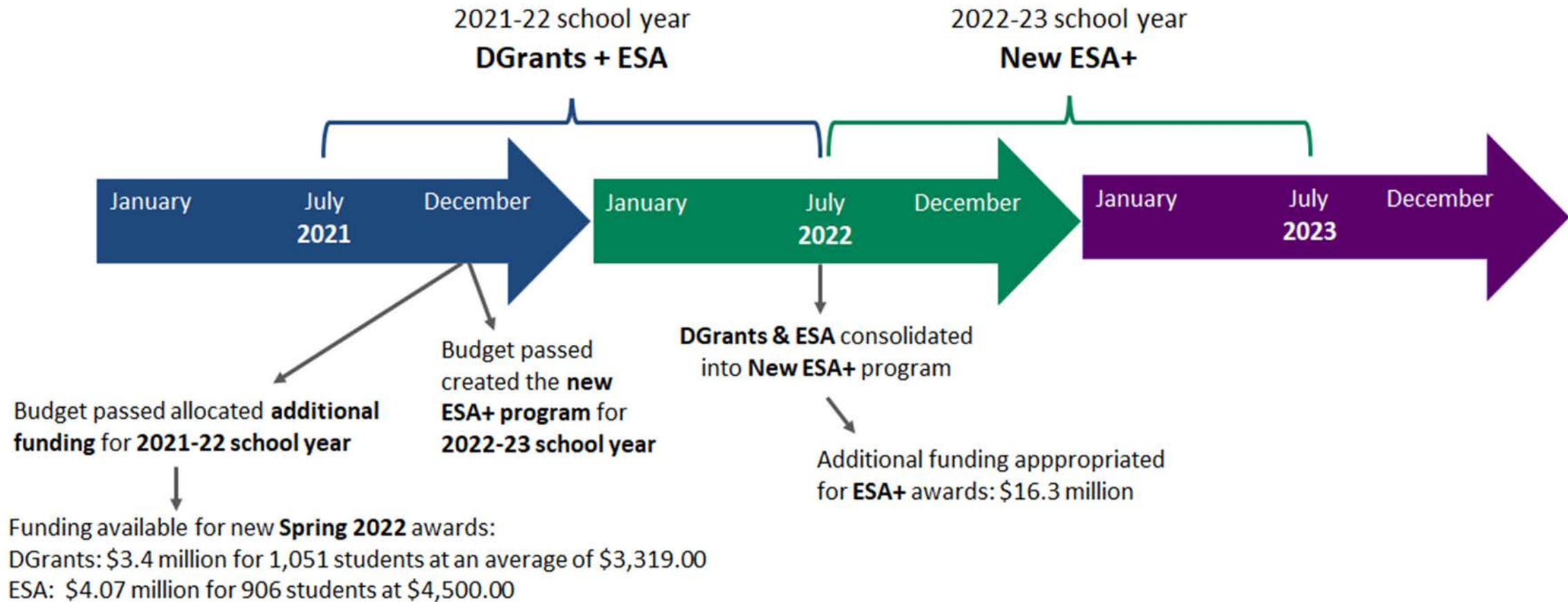


**Students with Disabilities**  
Amount of Scholarships



- The Disabilities Grant and the Education Savings Account programs both paid for tuition or other qualified expenses related to educating a child with a disability
- In 2020-21 70% of ESA program participants also received a Disabilities Grant
- Applying for and complying with regulations for three separate programs was ***stressful and confusing for families.***

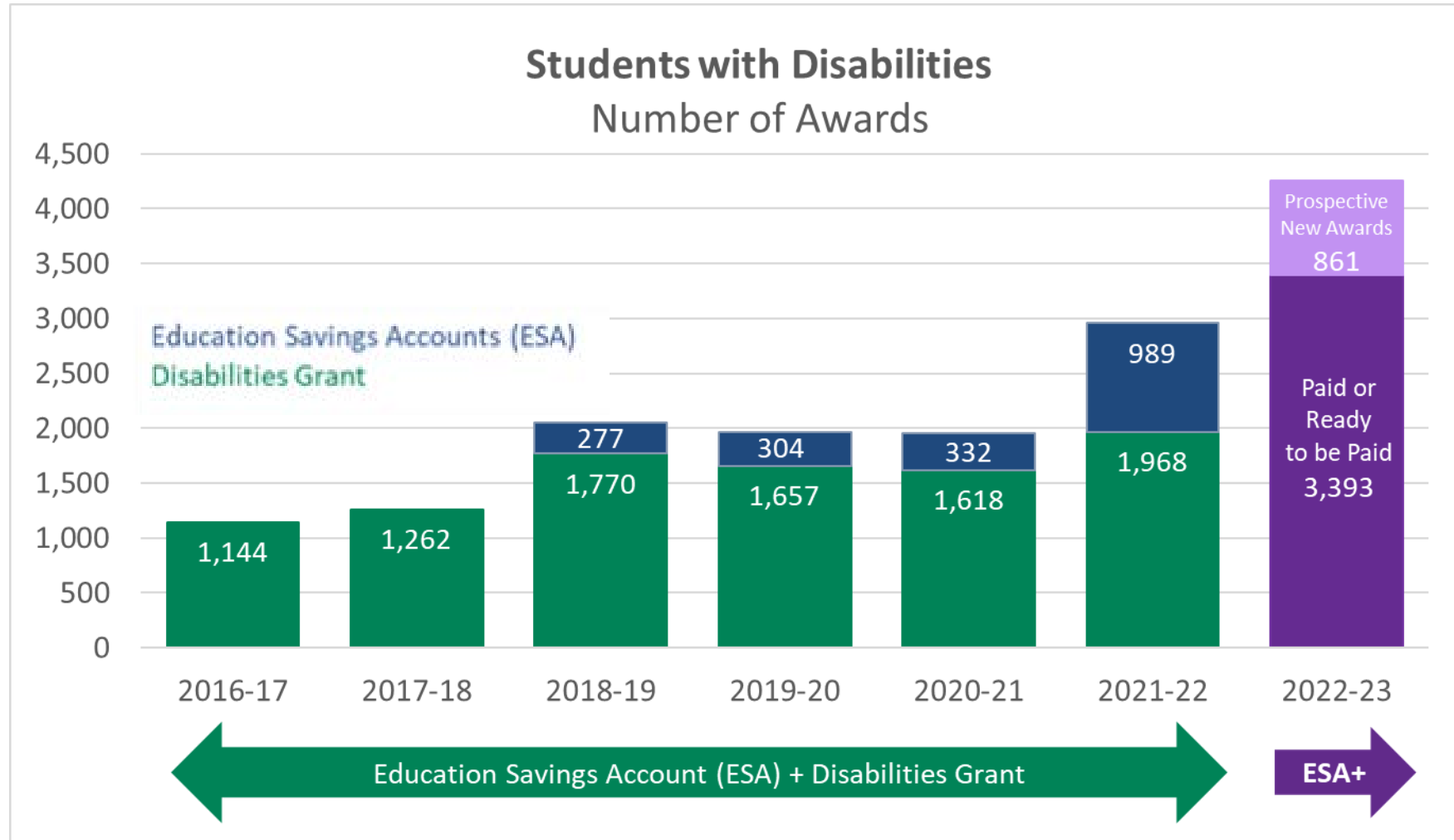
The new **ESA+ program**, launched in 2022-23 school year, will help ease the burden for families and make more efficient use of state resources. **Total budget \$47.9M.**



## ESA+ Program Design

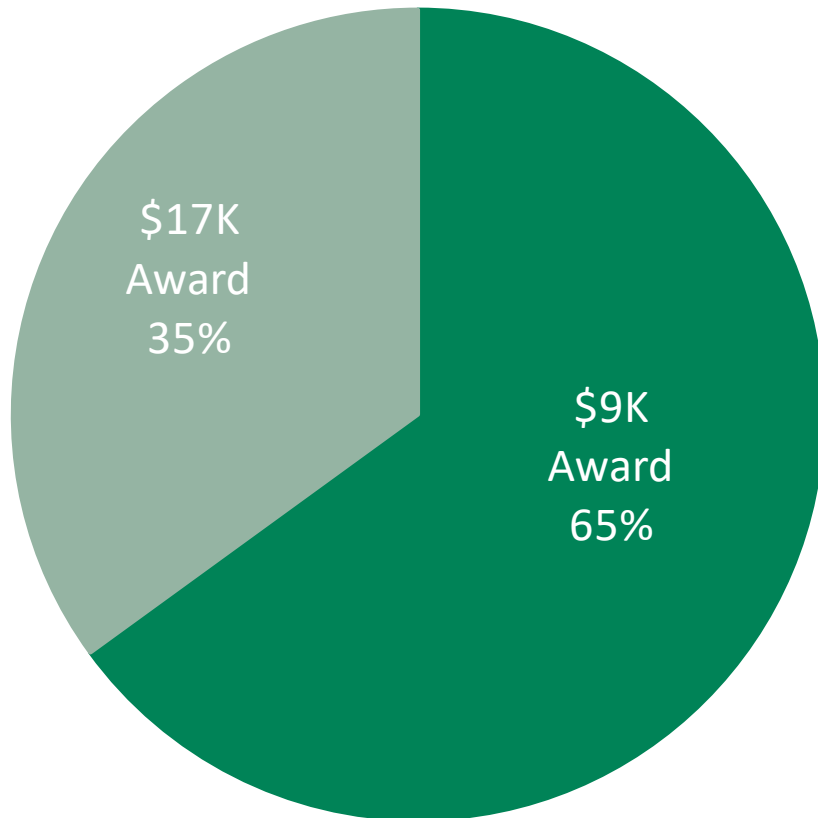
- Each semester, SEAA disburses ESA+ funds for **tuition and fees**. For students in a home school, or for students with a partial award remaining after their schools are paid, ESA+ funds are deposited to an **electronic wallet**. Parents spend those funds for tutoring, educational therapies, curriculum, or technology.
- ESA+ allows SEAA **greater oversight of payments** to schools, **provides flexibility** to families without requiring them to pay out of pocket and wait to be reimbursed, and will also allow an **increasing number of students** to be served with greater efficiency.
- Students are awarded **\$9,000 annually**. Students with certain designated disabilities may be eligible to receive **\$17,000** a year.

## ESA+ Program Growth

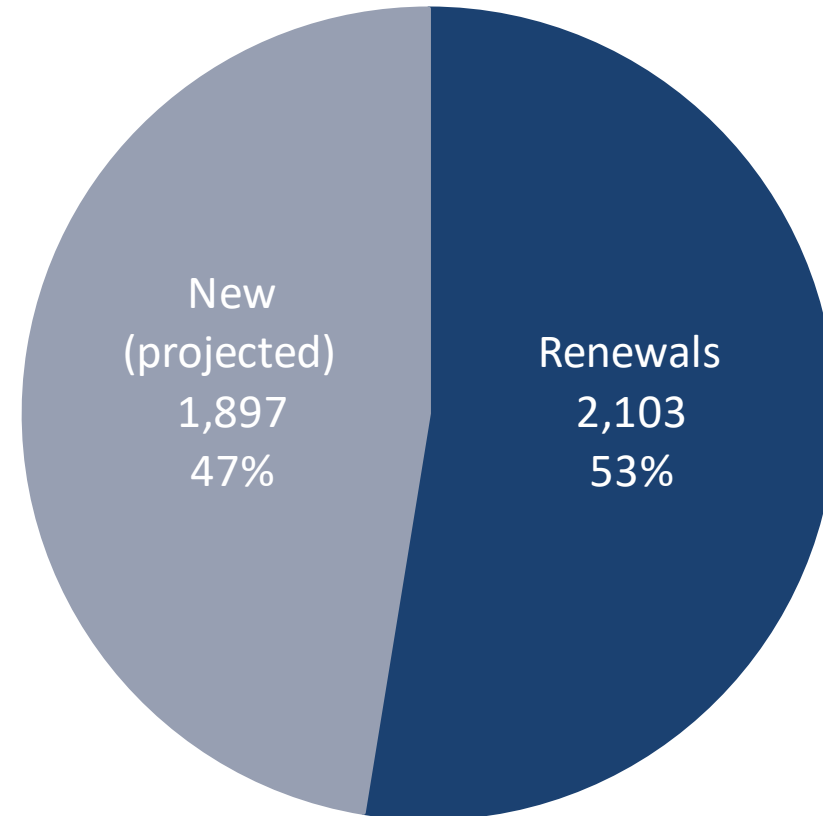


## ESA+ Program 2022-2023 school year

Annual Awards, % of Recipients



Projected Number of Awards





North Carolina State Education  
Assistance Authority

## Contact information:

Andrea Poole

Executive Director

[apoole@ncseaa.edu](mailto:apoole@ncseaa.edu)

Mary Shuping

Director of Governmental and External Affairs

[mshuping@ncseaa.edu](mailto:mshuping@ncseaa.edu)