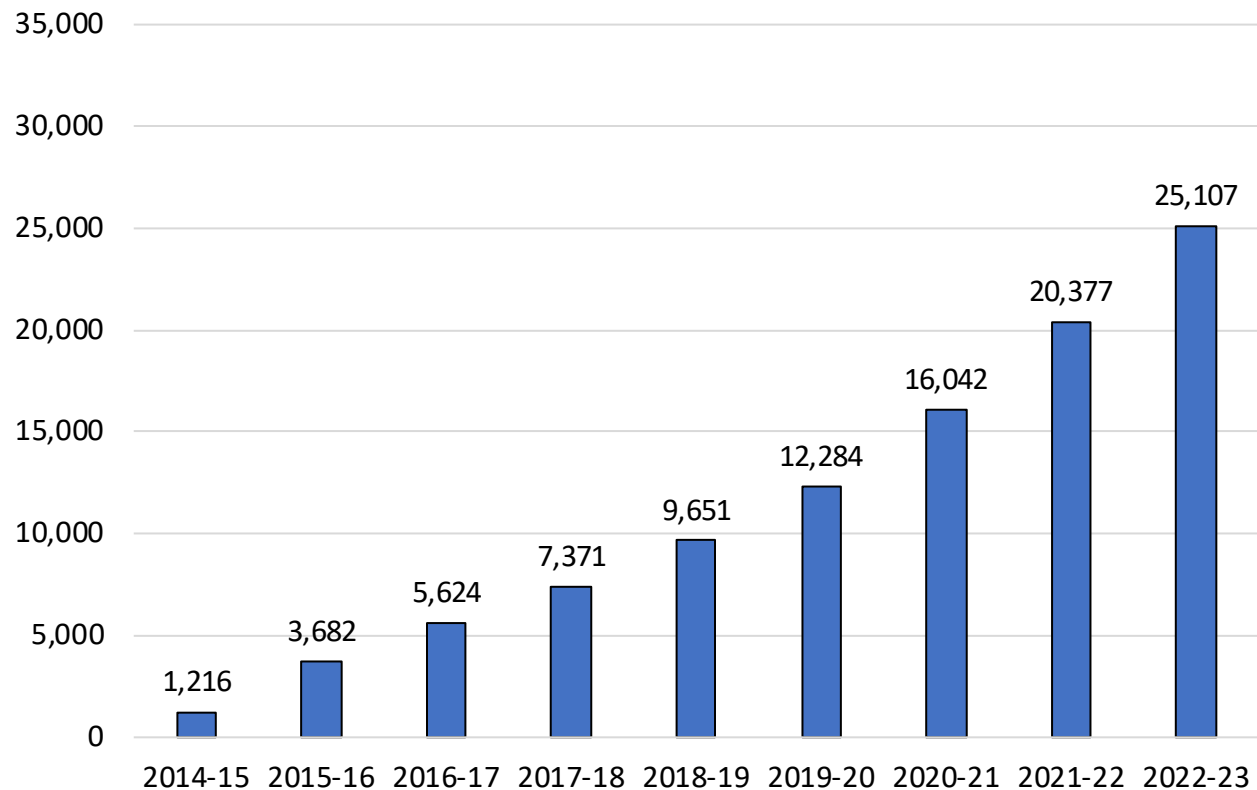


Question 1: How does growth in the number of Opportunity Scholarship Program recipients relate to changes in program eligibility?

Significant program eligibility changes by fiscal year effective date:

- **FY 2020-21:** removed cap on the amount of funds that could go to students in grades K and 1
- **FY 2020-21:** income eligibility increased from 133% reduced-priced lunch (RPL) income level to 150%, effective spring 2021
- **FY 2021-22:** one-time admission eligibility for students enrolled in public school in fall 2019, who meet income eligibility, to qualify for FY 2021-22 award
- **FY 2022-23:** income eligibility increased from 150% to 175% RPL
- **FY 2022-23:** removed prior-public school requirement for 2nd graders, aligning with policy already in place for grades K and 1

Opportunity Scholarship Program, Award Recipients by Fiscal Year



Question 2: What requirements are placed on private schools that accept an Opportunity Scholarship award?

The obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants are outlined in [115C-562.5](#).

Question 3: How are administrative costs covered for State student financial aid?

The General Assembly often allows agencies such as the NC State Education Assistance Authority to collect administrative fees to manage State aid programs. The administrative allowance often varies by program size and complexity. For example, forgivable loan programs generally have a larger administrative cost burden, since the agency is both providing the award and monitoring loan compliance.

The administrative fee allowance is often limited to a percentage of total award funds appropriated.

Examples of Administrative Fees for State Financial Aid Programs

Private Need-Based Scholarship: 1.5% admin fee allowance

Public Colleges and Universities Need-Based Scholarship: 1.5% admin fee allowance

Teaching Fellows: \$250,000 or 4% of funds available, whichever is greater

Cheatham-White Scholarship: No administrative allowance noted in law