

TENNESSEE EDUCATION LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM **2023 ANNUAL REPORT** RECIPIENT OUTCOMES THROUGH FALL 2022



Tennessee Higher Education Commission

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Introduction

This report is prepared pursuant to T.C.A. §49-4-903(b), which directs the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to:

“...provide assistance to the general assembly and to [the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation] by researching and analyzing data concerning the scholarship and grant programs created under this part, including, but not limited to, student success and scholarship retention.”

The Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) program was designed to meet the unique needs of the State of Tennessee, while also incorporating the hallmark elements of existing merit-based aid programs in other states. Developed through a process involving elected officials and members of the academic community, the TELS program aims to address the following broad public policy objectives:

- Improve academic achievement in high school through scholarship incentive.
- Provide financial assistance as a means of promoting access to higher education.
- Retain the state’s “best and brightest” students in Tennessee colleges and universities.
- Enhance and promote economic and community development through workforce training.

Privacy Notice

Throughout this report, THEC complies with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements to protect students’ personally identifiable information. Therefore, when tables are presented, **individual cells containing fewer than 10 observations are suppressed**. The suppressed information is included in table totals.

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Data Sources, Technical Notes & Definitions

Data Sources

- Unless otherwise noted, data contained within this report are from the Financial Aid System of Tennessee (FAST), the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) Student Information System (SIS), and the P20 Connect Data System. Data from the [TSAC annual TELS Year-End Reports](#) are used in Section I.
- The current report uses verified payments from FAST to determine all TELS recipients and is supplemented by THECSIS and P20 Connect data, where applicable (e.g., retention and graduation data).
- The P20 Connect Data System is used as an additional source to match **retention and graduation data** from private (i.e., TICUA) institutions. Not all TICUA institutions participate in the P20 Connect.
 - Twenty-one private institutions currently submit data to P20 Connect: Baptist Health Sciences University, Bethel University, Carson-Newman University, Christian Brothers University, Cumberland University, Fisk University, Freed-Hardeman University, Johnson University, King University, Lane College, LeMoyne-Owen College, Lee University, Lipscomb University, Maryville College, Milligan University, Rhodes College, Tennessee Wesleyan University, Trevecca Nazarene University, Tusculum University, Union University, and Welch College.

Technical Notes

- Students are identified by higher education sector and scholarship type **at college entry**, unless otherwise noted. Renewal, retention, and graduation rates are also attributed to the higher education sector and scholarship program at college entry.
- The full TELS suite includes 14 different financial aid programs. For this report, the focus will be on the HOPE Scholarship, General Assembly Merit Scholarship, Aspire Award, and HOPE Access Grant programs. Unless otherwise noted, all tables and figures only include these programs.
- Unless otherwise noted, all tables and figures include Locally Governed Institutions (LGIs), TBR Community Colleges, University of Tennessee (UT) Campuses, and private institutions.
- Martin Methodist College merged with the University of Tennessee System on July 1, 2021, to become Tennessee's newest public university, the University of Tennessee Southern. The first two sections of this report, which provide data on scholarship recipients in fall 2022, and the third section of the report, which provides data on scholarship renewal and retention of the fall 2021 cohort, categorize the University of Tennessee Southern within the "UT Campuses" sector. The remaining two sections of the report focus on longer-term scholarship recipient outcomes by cohort, but do not break out these data by sector.
- Statistics presented in this report exclude [Tennessee HOPE Nontraditional Scholarship](#) recipients, whose eligibility is contingent on enrollment in an eligible bachelor's degree program.

Definitions

- The **six-year graduation rate** is defined as the percent of TELS first-time freshmen who attained either an associate or bachelor's degree **within six years** of enrollment regardless of scholarship status at graduation.
- The **graduation rate with TELS intact** is defined as the percent of TELS first-time freshmen who attained either **an associate or bachelor's degree within five years** of enrollment without losing scholarship eligibility (i.e., received a TELS award in the same term as their graduation). Five years is the maximum time for which students can renew a scholarship.

Executive Summary

Overview of the TELS Report

This manuscript provides a snapshot of TELS recipients and their outcomes, including narrative discussion on the current context. The report comprises five sections: (1) Program Overview, (2) Recipient Demographics, (3) Scholarship Renewal and Postsecondary Retention for Non-Renewals, (4) Five-Year Graduation Rates with TELS Intact, and (5) Six-Year Graduation Rates and Outcomes over Time.

Three interactive data dashboards allow users to explore data on TELS participation and recipient outcomes at a deeper level:

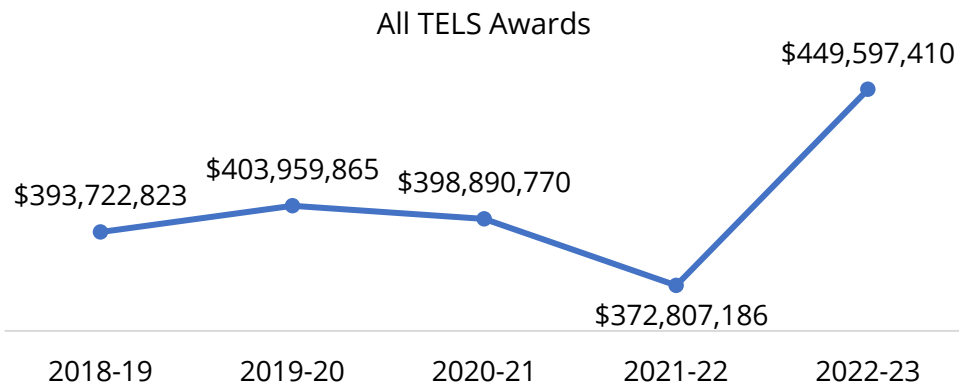
- **TELS Fast Facts Dashboard** centralizes the most sought-after metrics related to the TELS annual report. Program participation, recipient academic profiles, renewal rates, retention rates, and graduation rates are all easily accessible in the Fast Facts Dashboard. As with the other dashboards, users may filter the data to dig deeper into each metric presented on the dashboard.
- **TELS Participation Dashboard** provides a descriptive look into the first-time TELS recipients by term and over time. Users should refer to the TELS Participation Dashboard to learn more about the distribution of first-time TELS recipients by income, academic profile, and scholarship program participation. Users may refine the results of the dashboard by institutional sector, scholarship program, and recipient demographic group, including race/ethnicity, gender, and economic status.
- **TELS Student Success Dashboard** demonstrates the outcomes of first-time TELS recipients by cohort and over time. Users may refer to the TELS Student Success Dashboard to learn more about TELS scholarship renewal rates, retention rates, and graduation rates. As with the TELS Participation Dashboard, users may filter the data by institutional sector, scholarship program, and recipient demographic group.

The dashboards, as well as datasets with institution-specific statistics, are available via the [TELS Report landing page](#).

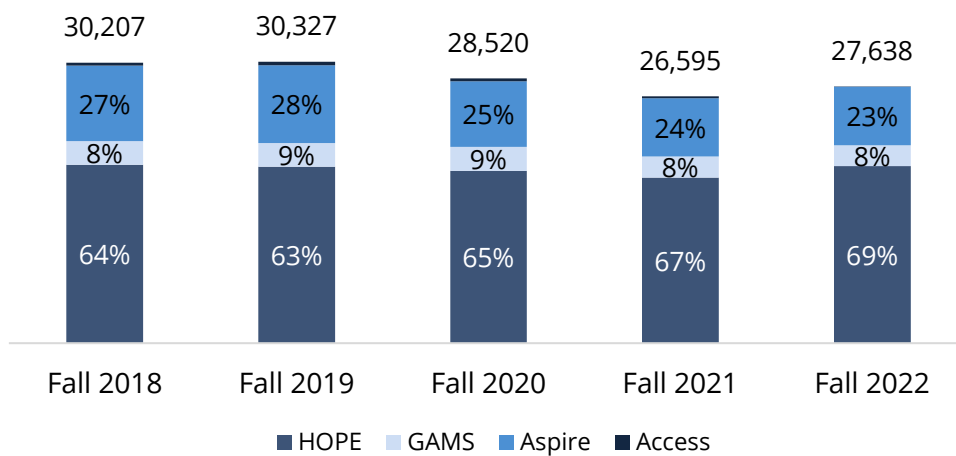
Key Takeaways

Participation

In 2022-2023, **over 146,000 students** received a Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS), with awards totaling nearly **\$450 million** (see [Table 3](#)). This represents all TELS programs, including Tennessee Promise, Wilder-Naifeh, and the Dual Enrollment Grant, among others. Overall, 2022-2023 had over **7,000 more recipients** of all TELS awards as compared to 2021-2022. For the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum HOPE scholarship award amount increased from \$3,000 to \$3,200 for community college students, from \$3,500 to \$4,500 for freshman- and sophomore-level students at four-year institutions, and from \$4,500 to \$5,700 for junior- and senior-level students at four-year institutions (see [Figure 1](#)). These increases to the HOPE scholarship award amount drove a nearly **\$77 million increase** in total scholarship allocations.



In fall 2022, **27,638 students** enrolled as first-time scholarship recipients of the HOPE Scholarship, Aspire Award, General Assembly Merit Scholarship (GAMS), or HOPE Access Grant (see [Table 5](#)). GAMS and Aspire are supplemental awards to the base HOPE Scholarship. First-time scholarship participation **increased 4%** from fall 2021 to fall 2022, which reverses a two-year trend of declining first-time participation.



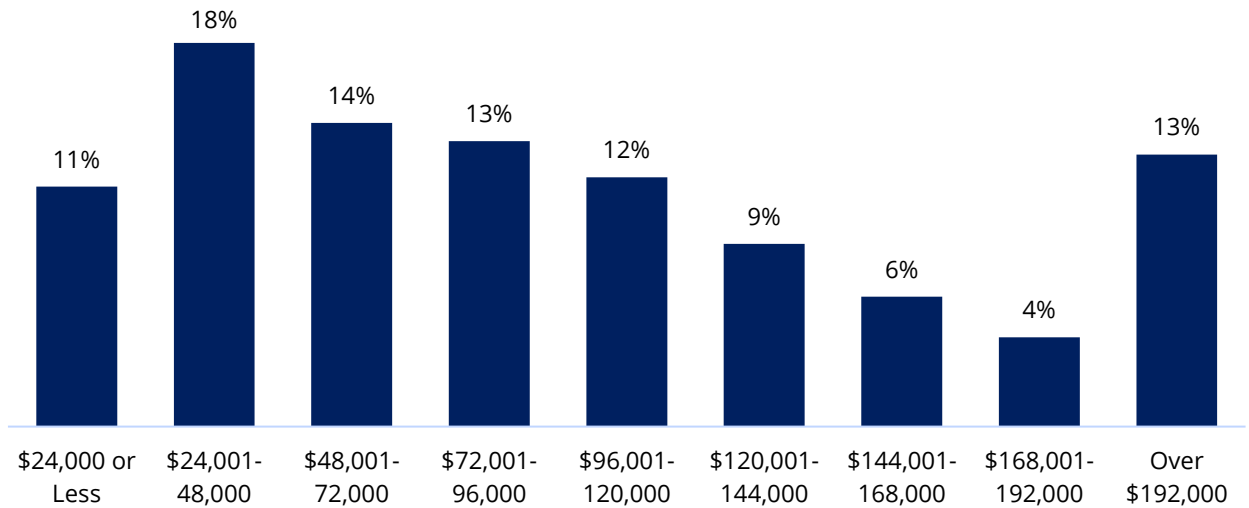
Fall 2022 First-Time Recipient Cohort Demographics

The fall 2022 cohort of first-time scholarship recipients had a similar demographic composition to previous cohorts (see [Table 7](#)). The majority of first-time recipients are **women**, and the vast majority are **White, Not Hispanic**.

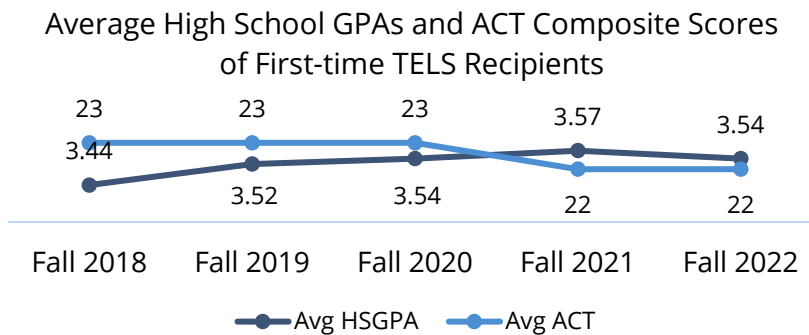


To address increasing wages over time, the fall 2022 cohort of first-time scholarship recipients has been sorted into larger adjusted gross income (AGI) categories than previously

used in this report. First-time recipients with an **AGI over \$192,000 had the largest increase** compared to the previous cohort (see [Figure 3](#)). Student participation in the **lowest AGI category, \$24,000 or less, declined** relative to the previous cohort.

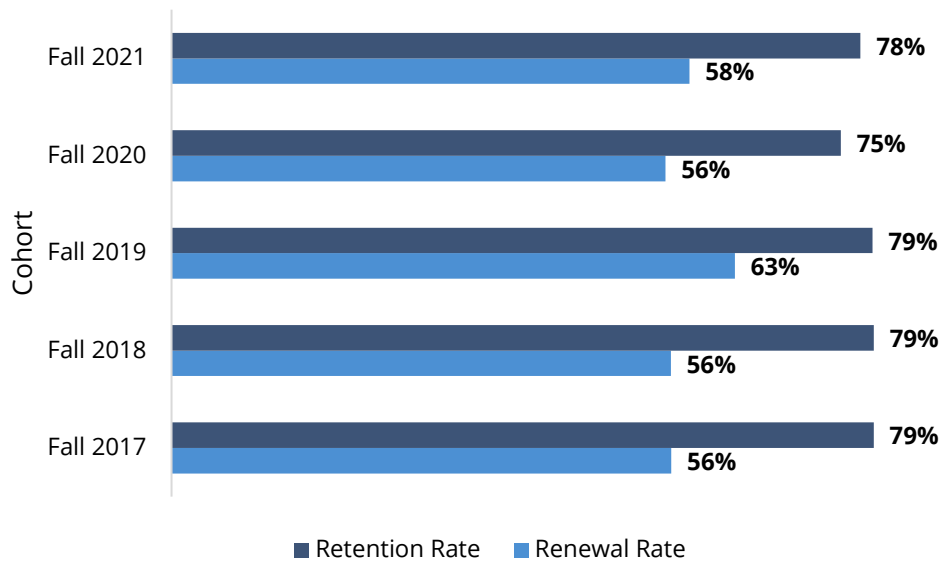


First-time TELS recipients in fall 2022 had an **average high school GPA of 3.54 and an average ACT Composite score of 22** (see [Table 8](#)). Within the recipient cohort, 93% had a high school GPA of at least 3.0, and 65% had at least an ACT Composite score of 21. Fifty-eight percent of first-time TELS recipients met both the GPA and ACT Composite score requirements for the HOPE Scholarship (see [Figure 4](#)).

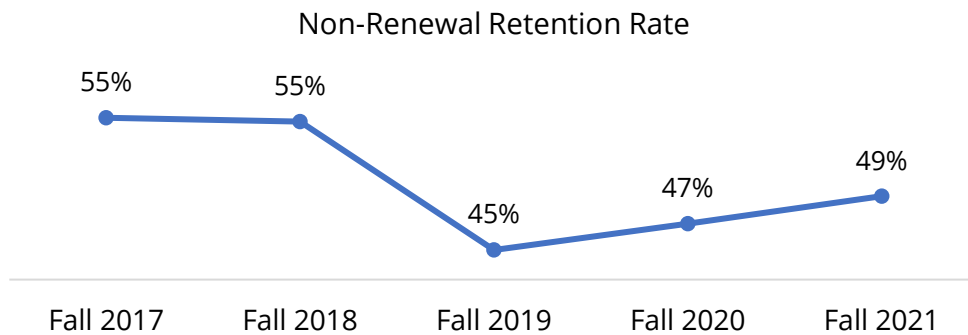


Outcome Metrics

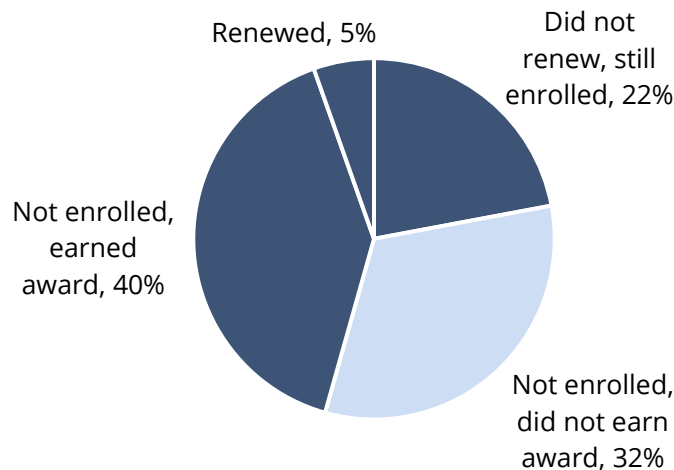
Seventy-eight percent of the fall 2021 first-time TELS recipient cohort remained enrolled in postsecondary education in fall 2022 regardless of scholarship receipt (see [Table 11](#)). This represents an increase of three percentage points relative to the fall 2020 cohort of first-time recipients. **Fifty-eight percent** of the cohort renewed their scholarship (i.e., received a TELS award) in fall 2022 (see [Table 9](#)). The proportion of the fall 2021 cohort maintaining scholarship eligibility in the first year rose two percentage points compared to the fall 2020 cohort.



Forty-nine percent of first-time TELS recipients in fall 2021 who did not renew their scholarship eligibility requirements in fall 2022 remained enrolled in postsecondary education (see [Table 10](#)). This represents an increase of two percentage points when compared to the prior cohort. Despite the increase, non-renewal retention remains **six percentage points lower** compared to pre-pandemic cohort (i.e., fall 2017 and fall 2018) rates.



Overall, the fall 2016 cohort of first-time TELS recipients had a **67% success rate** at the end of the fifth and final year of scholarship eligibility ([Figure 7](#)).



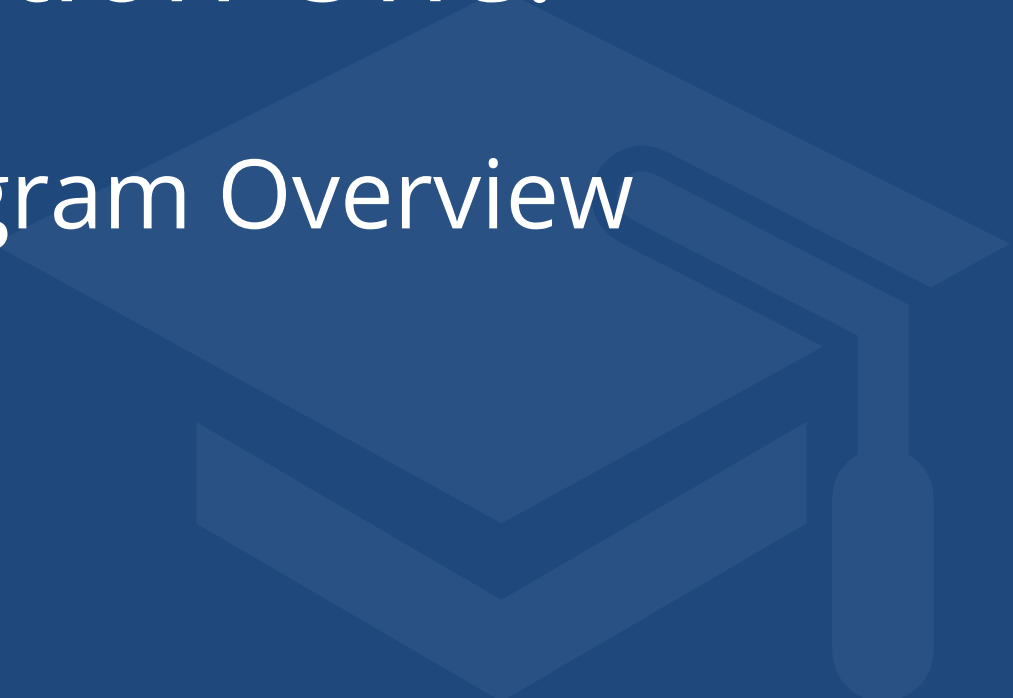
Recommendations

- THEC should improve data sharing with TICUA institutions to enhance understanding of TELS recipients' retention and completion at TICUA institutions, specifically for students who lose their scholarship.
- The fall 2022 increase in first-time TELS recipients mirrors slight gains in the college-going rate for the high school class of 2022. As [Momentum Year 2023](#) initiatives aim to increase the college-going rate among recent high school graduates, THEC should continue to monitor and promote strategies for increasing the number of Tennessee college-goers eligible for the HOPE scholarship.
- The rise in Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) over time highlights an opportunity to re-evaluate the assessment of student financial need for TELS scholarships. The Aspire Award recognizes the additional needs that high-achieving, low-income students in Tennessee have when contemplating college-going. The AGI threshold, \$36,000, was set in 2003 and has not been updated. The static nature of the threshold means that the Aspire award is only available to an increasingly smaller share of high-achieving, low-income students. As the simplified FAFSA¹ debuts in 2024-2025, THEC/TSAC should continue to monitor data regarding student financial need and recommend changes to meet the spirit of the program and address the needs of Tennessee's students.

¹ For more information about the simplified FAFSA visit the Federal Student Aid's website on the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#).

Section One:

Program Overview



Program Overview

Table 1 depicts the award amounts and the eligibility criteria to receive and maintain the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship (GAMS), the Aspire Award, and the HOPE Access Grant as of the 2022-23 academic year. GAMS and the Aspire Award are supplements to the HOPE Scholarship. Pursuant to Public Chapter (2020) 794, TSAC ceased accepting new applications for the HOPE Access Grant after September 1, 2021. Students apply for the HOPE, GAMS, and the Aspire award by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For additional information on the scholarship eligibility requirements and award amounts, visit CollegeForTN.org.

Table 1: Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Criteria

Eligibility Criteria	HOPE	GAMS	Aspire
Minimum High School GPA	3.00	3.75	3.00
Minimum ACT Composite	<u>or</u> 21	<u>and</u> 29	<u>or</u> 21
Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)	N/A	N/A	<u>and</u> <=\$36,000
Postsecondary Retention GPA*	<i>Traditional Path</i> - Cumulative 2.75 at 24 & 48 hours, cumulative 3.0 at 72, 96, 120 hours		
	<i>Provisional Path</i> - Cumulative 2.75-2.99 at 72, 96, 120 hours with 3.0 prior semester		
4-year: Freshman and Sophomore	\$4,500	\$5,500	\$6,000
4-year: Junior and Senior	\$5,700	\$6,700	\$7,200
2-year: Freshman and Sophomore	\$3,200	\$4,200	\$3,700

Notes: The above award amounts are limited to fall and spring terms, but awards are also available for summer terms. Amounts reported in [historical versions](#) of this report included summer terms. Refer to the historical reports for award amounts prior to fall 2022, including HOPE Access award details.

The provisional path applies to students who do not have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of the semester in which a student attempted 72 semester hours and any multiple of 24 semester hours thereafter. Under the provisional path, a student's continued eligibility will be determined on a semester-by-semester basis, and the student must maintain full-time enrollment.

Student Level is determined by the institution.

*TELS eligibility may be renewed for up to five years after initial enrollment or until the student earned a bachelor's degree. The credit hour checkpoints correspond to 24=end of first year, 48=end of second year, 72=end of third year, 96=end of fourth year, 120=end of fifth year.

Table 2 provides an abbreviated overview of the recent legislative history pertaining to Tennessee's state-based financial aid programs.

Table 2: Major Legislative Changes in TELS, 2017-2023

Legislative Changes

2017

Created Community College Reconnect Grant Program (Tennessee Reconnect)
Created Middle College Scholarship Program (took effect fall 2018)

2018

Tennessee Reconnect launched (takes effect fall 2018)
Middle College Scholarship launched
Eliminated Nontraditional HOPE at associate degree level

2019

Increased semester award for the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship from \$600 to \$1,000.
Expanded the Dual Enrollment Grant maximum from 8 courses to 10 courses (took effect fall 2020)
Created the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE), which expands the Dual Enrollment Grant to 4 high-need career and technical education (CTE) courses (took effect fall 2020)

2020

Financial aid application process streamlined with the passage of the Financial Aid Simplification for Tennesseans (FAST) Act. Effective July 1, 2021, the FAST Act also eliminated the 120-credit hour accrual terminating event for HOPE eligibility. The FAST Act ended several state-based financial aid programs, which included the HOPE Access Grant. TSAC stopped accepting applications for the HOPE Access Grant on September 1, 2021.
TSAC temporarily suspended several rules for the HOPE Scholarship, TN Promise, and TN Reconnect for the spring, summer, and fall 2020 semesters. More information on these rule suspensions can be found at [TSAC's COVID-19 Campus & Financial Aid webpage](#). Rule suspensions extended into 2021.

2021

The Tennessee Promise Annual Report consolidated with the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Report with the first joint report to be released in October 2022.
Public Chapter 512 established a four-year pilot program to award completion grants to Tennessee Promise Scholarship students who have an immediate financial need or who are experiencing a financial hardship that may prevent the student from completing a postsecondary degree or credential. The pilot program will be repealed January 1, 2026.
Effective January 1, 2022, the Dual Enrollment Grant program will award in-state tuition and mandatory fees up to a maximum of the first four dual enrollment courses.
The Middle College Scholarship award increased from \$1,000/semester to \$1,250/semester.
William R. Moore College of Technology added as an eligible institution for the Dual Enrollment Grant.
Created an alternate path to HOPE eligibility for home school students by allowing the use of two dual enrollment courses with a 3.0 average GPA to serve as a proxy for the cumulative high school GPA.
Expanded the Helping Heroes grant by allowing TSAC to expand eligibility by military campaign through rule, removing the \$750,000 cap on expenditures, and removing the eight-year timeframe for completion.

2022

Effective July 1, 2022, Tennessee Public Chapter 1116 increased base HOPE award amount to \$2,250/semester at eligible four-year institutions for freshmen and sophomore students. Base HOPE award amount for juniors and seniors at eligible four-year institutions increased to \$2,850/semester. For students at eligible two-year colleges, Base HOPE awards increased to \$1,600/semester.
Expanded the Dual Enrollment program to award in-state tuition and mandatory fees up to a maximum of the first five dual enrollment courses at a 4-year or 2-year eligible institution, or 1,296 clock hours at a TCAT, and expanded the program by allowing high school freshmen and sophomores enrolled in a TCAT to participate.
Lowered the renewal GPA from 2.75 to 2.0 and eliminated the required reduction of a student's HOPE award by the amount of DEG received after the fourth course.
Expanded the HOPE Scholarship for Nontraditional Students by using independent status rather than minimum 25 years of age.
Lowered the minimum age for Tennessee Reconnect Grant eligibility from 24 to 23 (or as otherwise classified as financially independent on the FAFSA).

2023

Expanded the HOPE scholarship to allow a student who earns their first bachelor's degree in less than the projected completion time to continue to receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship in pursuit of an advanced degree; eligibility remains limited to a total of five years.

Note: For additional historical legislative changes to TELS, please refer to [past reports](#).

Table 3 provides a comprehensive overview of recipient counts and total awards for the full suite of TELS programs. GAMS and Aspire are supplemental awards to the HOPE Scholarship and are included in the subtotal with HOPE. Except for **Table 3** and **Table 4**, this report focuses exclusively on HOPE, GAMS, Aspire, and HOPE Access Grant (Access) programs. TSAC ceased accepting new applications for the HOPE Access Grant after September 1, 2021. Importantly, Access recipients and their outcomes will continue to be reported as they progress through higher education.

Readers interested in learning more about the TELS programs not highlighted in this report are encouraged to review the TELS Year-End Reports and archived scholarship reports available via the [TELS Program Data webpage](#).

Table 3: Scholarship Recipients and Dollars Awarded by Scholarship Program, 2020-21 to 2022-23

Scholarship Program	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	Students	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students	Dollars
HOPE	49,179	\$169,364,419	46,155	\$160,786,187	47,175	\$206,224,714
GAMS	9,080	\$44,507,415	8,690	\$42,765,904	8,408	\$50,571,280
Aspire	17,555	\$81,852,978	15,275	\$72,421,444	14,387	\$81,423,680
Subtotal (HOPE, GAMS, Aspire)	75,814	\$295,724,812	70,120	\$275,973,535	69,970	\$338,219,674
Tennessee Promise	16,633	\$30,449,206	13,796	\$26,230,370	12,847	\$22,513,667
Tennessee Reconnect	11,648	\$29,069,338	8,925	\$22,071,509	7,804	\$19,571,125
TCAT Reconnect	2,058	\$2,215,621	1,748	\$2,059,691	1,797	\$2,081,454
HOPE Access Grant	317	\$519,978	218	\$363,315	14	\$20,515
HOPE Non-Traditional	338	\$1,190,782	281	\$929,441	409	\$1,774,331
Wilder-Naifeh Grant	11,033	\$13,725,144	10,708	\$13,841,478	10,924	\$13,895,569
HOPE Foster Care Grant	75	\$458,828	89	\$490,522	105	\$594,933
Dual Enrollment Grant	31,210	\$24,427,561	31,626	\$29,290,259	41,709	\$48,423,844
Middle College Scholarship	260	\$459,000	393	\$886,941	481	\$1,769,848
Math & Science Teachers	<10	\$2,000	<10	\$2,000	0	\$0
Helping Heroes Grant	196	\$306,250	205	\$304,500	238	\$357,000
TN STEP UP	101	\$342,250	102	\$363,625	97	\$375,450
Total	151,024*	\$398,890,770	139,232*	\$372,807,186	146,395*	\$449,597,410

Source: [TSAC TELS year-end reports](#)

Notes: *Indicates a distinct count of individuals receiving award dollars from grant programs. Totals represent a distinct count of students and are not always the sum of the numbers within the section.

The Financial Aid Simplification for Tennesseans (FAST) Act of 2020 sunset the HOPE Access Grant program and ended the Math & Science Teachers program. For more information about the FAST Act, please see this [brief](#) prepared by the Office of Research and Education Accountability in the Comptroller of the Treasury.

Table 4 provides the count of recipients and the allocated awards by sector in Tennessee. Like Table 3, **Table 4** includes the full suite of TELS programs. While TBR Community Colleges represent a decreasing share of recipients and total allocations, the number of recipients and dollars awarded increased from 2021-22 to 2022-23, highlighting the increased investment in the HOPE scholarship award amount.

Table 4: Distribution of Scholarship Recipients and Dollars by System, 2020-21 to 2022-23

Year	System	Students		Allocations	
		Number	Percent	Dollars	Percent
2020-21	UT System	22,499	15%	\$91,702,289	23%
	LGIs	31,924	21%	\$113,136,180	28%
	TBR 2-Year	57,412	38%	\$108,367,292	27%
	Independents	18,587	12%	\$61,835,781	16%
	TCATs	19,512	13%	\$20,556,098	5%
	Proprietary Institutions	1,090	1%	\$3,293,130	1%
	Total*		151,024	100%	\$398,890,770
2021-22	UT System	22,066	16%	\$89,482,973	24%
	LGIs	29,375	21%	\$105,624,754	28%
	TBR 2-Year	49,878	36%	\$95,096,754	26%
	Independents	17,029	12%	\$58,031,857	16%
	TCATs	19,883	14%	\$21,581,761	6%
	Proprietary Institutions	1,001	1%	\$2,989,087	1%
	Total*		139,232	100%	\$372,807,186
2022-23	UT System	22,418	15%	\$112,628,755	25%
	LGIs	31,260	21%	\$135,194,789	30%
	TBR 2-Year	50,450	34%	\$101,645,582	23%
	Independents	16,812	11%	\$69,792,755	16%
	TCATs	25,776	18%	\$26,916,040	6%
	Proprietary Institutions	945	1%	\$3,419,489	1%
	Total*		146,395	100%	\$449,597,410

Source: [TSAC TELS year-end reports](#)

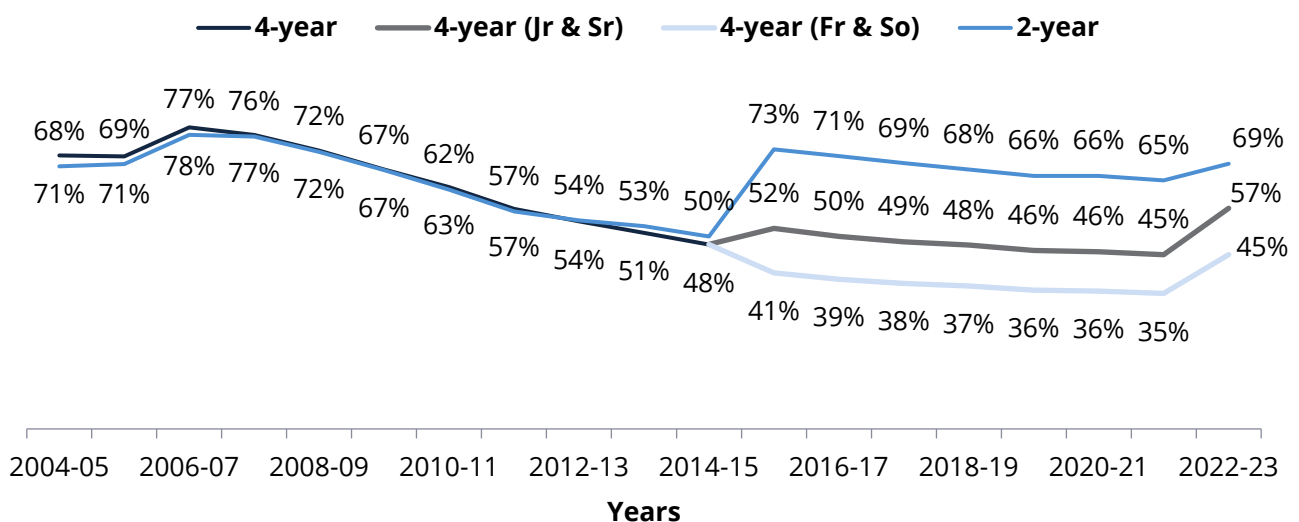
Notes: *Annual totals represent a distinct count of students and are not always the sum of the sector totals for the year. Due to rounding, totals may not sum to 100. Student and award totals are based on the suite of TELS programs summarized in Table 3. See [previous iterations](#) of this report for recipients and awards prior to 2010-21.

Figure 1 displays the maximum base HOPE award (not including GAMS or Aspire supplements; see [Table 1](#) for more information) as a percent of the average mandatory tuition and fees for Tennessee’s public community colleges and universities as reported in the annual [Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book](#). In 2022-23, public community colleges reported an average of \$4,638 in tuition and fees. For public universities, average tuition and fees were \$9,923.

From 2015-16 to 2021-22, the maximum base HOPE award per academic year was \$3,500 for freshman- and sophomore-level students and \$4,500 for junior- and senior-level students at four-year colleges and \$3,000 for students at two-year colleges. Tennessee Public Chapter 1116 went into effect on July 1, 2022, increasing the maximum annual base HOPE amount for freshman- and sophomore-level students to \$4,500 at eligible four-year colleges. The maximum annual base HOPE amount for junior- and senior-level students increased to \$5,700. At community colleges, the maximum base HOPE increased to \$3,200 annually.

Over the lifetime (2004-05 to 2022-23) of the TELS suite of programs, the maximum base HOPE award amount has increased by an average (i.e., compound annual growth rate) of 3.4% for 4-year colleges and by 4.1% for two-year colleges. Conversely, the tuition at Tennessee public colleges has grown by an average of 4.6% for public universities and by 4.0% for public community colleges. As such, the HOPE purchasing power declined from a high in 2006-07 for both community colleges and universities (77% and 78%, respectively). The maximum HOPE award reached its lowest purchasing power (45%) at universities in 2021-22. Following the award adjustment in 2015-16, HOPE purchasing power at community colleges declined from 73% to 65% at community colleges in 2021-22, but rebounded to 69% in 2022-23.

Figure 1: Maximum HOPE Award Amount as a Percent of Average Tuition & Fees at Public Institutions, 2004-05 to 2022-23



Notes: This figure does **not** include the HOPE award or tuition and fees for the summer semester. The increase in maximum amount between 2014-15 and 2015-16 at community colleges is explained by the change in HOPE award amounts in 2015-16. *Average Tuition and Fees* is an unweighted average of resident tuition and fees for full-time undergraduate students at public institutions. Refer to Table 3.9 in in 2023 [Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book](#) for more information. The average tuition and fees for public universities is inclusive of all six Locally Governed Institutions and four universities within the University of Tennessee System (Chattanooga, Knoxville, Martin, and Southern).

Tables 5 and 6 depict the count and share of TELS recipients by program and by sector in fall 2022. **Table 5** highlights first-time recipients in fall 2022, and **Table 6** reports details for all TELS recipients in fall 2022. Compared to fall 2021, HOPE represented a greater share of both first-time (69% versus 67%) and all TELS (69% versus 68%) recipients. The Aspire Award has reached a ten-year low in the proportion of first-time scholarship recipients receiving the award. This coincides with students with adjusted gross incomes (AGIs) of \$36,000 or below continuing to make up a smaller proportion of students participating in TELS. The AGI threshold for Aspire eligibility was set at \$36,000 in 2003; while inflationary pressures change the value of wages, the static nature of the Aspire Award’s threshold limits the accessibility of the award. Over time, as wages rise due to inflation and other factors, fewer students are eligible for Aspire unless the income threshold for eligibility is also raised.

While overall TELS participation decreased slightly (1%) from fall 2021 to fall 2022, the number of first-time recipients increased by 4% or 1,119 students during this timeframe. A seven percentage point increase in first-time HOPE scholarship recipients drove the increase in overall first-time TELS participation, as first-time GAMS and Aspire recipient counts remained stable.

Table 5: Distribution of First-Time Scholarship Recipients by System and Scholarship Program, Fall 2022

First-Time TELS Freshmen	System	Student Headcount				Total
		HOPE	GAMS	Aspire	Access**	
Student Headcount	LGI Universities	5,755	579	2,290	<10	8,624
	TBR Community Colleges	6,368	99	1,879	<10	8,346
	UT Campuses	4,316	1,049	1,210	<10	6,575
	Private Institutions***	2,650	518	915	<10	4,083
	Total	19,089	2,245	6,294	10	27,638
Percent	LGI Universities	67%	7%	27%	N/A	31%
	TBR Community Colleges	76%	1%	23%	N/A	30%
	UT Campuses	66%	16%	18%	N/A	24%
	Private Institutions***	65%	13%	22%	N/A	15%
	Total	69%	8%	23%	0.04%	100%

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

** Due to necessary suppression, Access students are excluded from sector-level counts in the “Total” column but included in the overall total. A small number of Access Grant recipients remain in Fall 2022 due to delayed admissions.

***Includes proprietary and non-for-profit institutions. South College is the only HOPE-eligible proprietary institution.

GAMS and Aspire are supplemental awards to the base HOPE award. Students captured in the “HOPE” column are those who only received the base scholarship.

UT Southern is included in the UT Campuses system.

Table 6: Distribution of All Scholarship Recipients by System and Scholarship Program, Fall 2022

All TELS	System	Student Headcount				
		HOPE	GAMS	Aspire	Access**	Total
Student Headcount	LGI Universities	16,258	2,138	5,123	<10	23,519
	TBR Community Colleges	9,995	180	2,697	<10	12,872
	UT Campuses	13,497	3,427	3,195	<10	20,119
	Private Institutions***	7,810	1,888	2,379	<10	12,077
	Total	47,560	7,633	13,394	14	68,601
Percent	LGI Universities	69%	9%	22%	N/A	34%
	TBR Community Colleges	78%	1%	21%	N/A	19%
	UT Campuses	67%	17%	16%	N/A	29%
	Private Institutions***	65%	16%	20%	N/A	18%
	Total	69%	11%	20%	0.02%	100%

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Student enrollment based on system in fall 2022, not necessarily the institution of initial scholarship receipt.

** Due to necessary suppression, Access students are excluded from sector-level counts in the "Total" column but included in the overall total. A small number of Access Grant recipients remain in Fall 2022 due to delayed admissions and enrollments prior to the sunset of the program.

***Includes proprietary and non-for-profit institutions. South College is the only HOPE-eligible proprietary institution.

GAMS and Aspire are supplemental awards to the base HOPE award. Students captured in the "HOPE" column are those who only received the base scholarship.

UT Southern is included in the UT Campuses system.

Section Two:

Recipient Demographics



Recipient Demographics

This section of the report provides an overview of the demographic characteristics of the fall 2022 cohort of first-time TELS recipients and a comparison to the demographic profile of previous cohorts of first-time TELS recipients. The majority of first-time TELS recipients are female, White, ineligible for a Federal Pell Grant, and did not receive a Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA), which is consistent year to year. Most recipients also have at least one parent with an associate degree or higher. **Table 7** provides a comparison of first-time TELS recipient demographic characteristics over time by gender, race/ethnicity, parental education, eligibility for federal need-based financial aid, and receipt of TSAA. While the share of Pell-eligible and TSAA-receiving students fell from the previous academic year, the total number of recipients in these subgroups increased slightly due to the increase in the count of first-time TELS recipients. To be eligible for TSAA in fall 2022, scholarship applicants must have an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$5,846 or less, which was the threshold used for determining Pell eligibility in the 2022-23 aid year.

Table 7: Demographic Profile of First-Time TELS Recipients
Fall 2020 - Fall 2022

Recipient Demographic Categories		Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Gender	<i>Female</i>	59%	59%	58%
	<i>Male</i>	41%	41%	42%
Race/Ethnicity	<i>Black, Not Hispanic</i>	12%	13%	13%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	6%	7%	7%
	<i>Other*</i>	6%	6%	7%
	<i>White, Not Hispanic</i>	76%	75%	73%
Parental Education	<i>Associate Degree or Higher</i>	68%	69%	70%
Aid Eligibility	<i>Federal Pell Grant</i>	43%	42%	41%
	<i>TN Student Assistance Award (TSAA) Receipt</i>	35%	40%	39%
Count of First-Time TELS Recipients		28,520	26,595	27,638

Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Other* category includes Alaskan Native, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Multiracial, and Unknown.

Pell eligibility and TSAA receipt are based on the student's first year of scholarship receipt.

First generation is a measure of "College and Beyond" as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and is based on the student's first year of scholarship receipt.

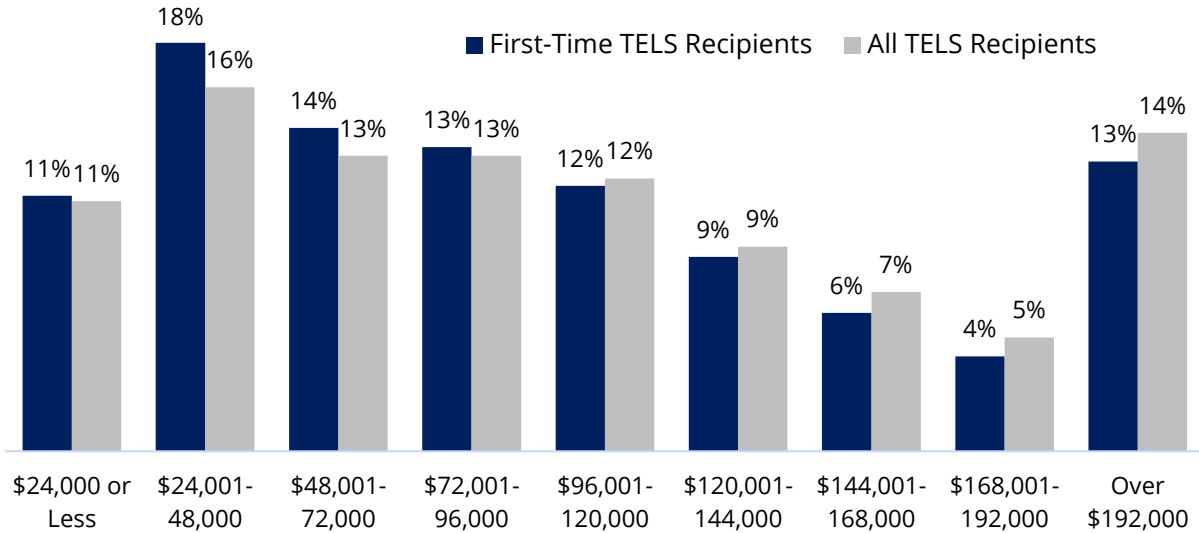
For more information on TSAA, Tennessee's need-based grant for undergraduates, visit [TSAC's TSAA webpage](#).

Figures 2 and 3 provide insight into the fall 2022 cohort by their adjusted gross income (AGI). In previous years, this report has sorted TELS recipients into AGI ranges that spanned \$12,000 increments. Starting in this year's report, recipients are sorted into ranges that span \$24,000 increments to address the increasing average AGI of recipients – increasing in terms of income that is adjusted for inflation as well as income that is not adjusted for inflation.

Figure 3 displays the change in headcount by AGI category for first-time and for all TELS recipients between fall 2021 and fall 2022. Most AGI categories had more first-time scholarship recipients as compared to fall 2021. Only the bottom category experienced a decline in headcount. First-time recipients with an AGI over \$192,00 experienced the largest relative gain, with an increase of 16% (464 recipients). Those with an AGI of \$24,000 or less had the only decline at 7% (-209 recipients). While the number of overall TELS recipients decreased from fall

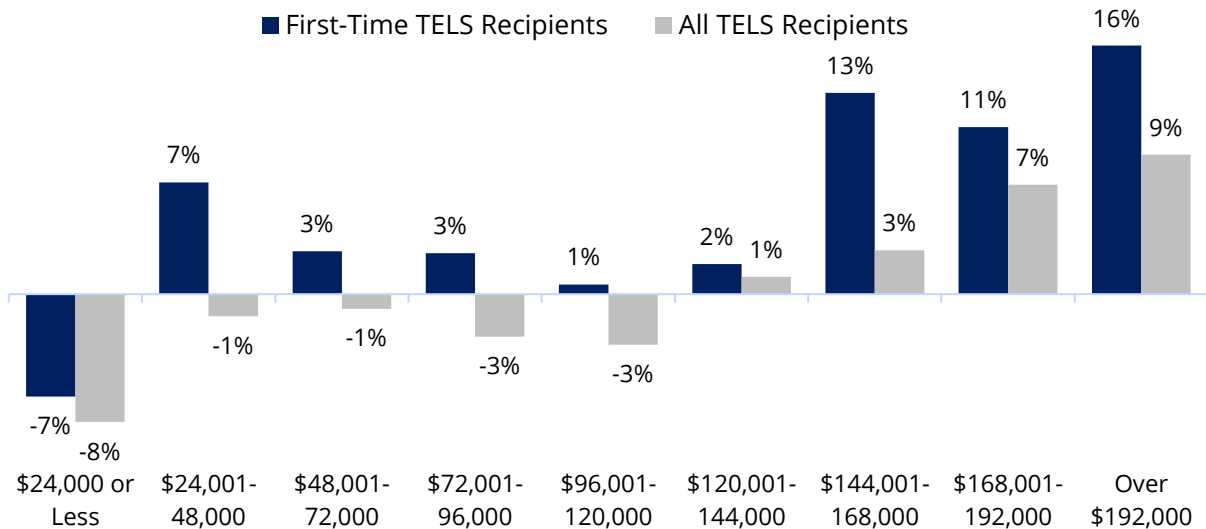
2021 to fall 2022, the number of recipients with an AGI of over \$192,000 increased 9% (789 recipients).

Figure 2: Lottery Scholarship by Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
Fall 2022



Notes: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
AGI as of fall 2022.

Figure 3: Change in First-Time and All TELS Recipient Headcount by Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI),
Fall 2021 - Fall 2022



Notes: Change in first-time recipient headcounts between fall 2021 and fall 2022 are as follows:
 \$24,000 or Less = (209); \$24,001-48,000 = 318; \$48,001-72,000 = 101; \$72,001-96,000 = 91; \$96,001-120,000 = 19;
 \$120,001-144,000 = 43; \$144,001-168,000 = 184; \$168,001-192,000 = 107; Over \$192,000 = 464
 The change in headcounts for all TELS recipients is available upon request.

Table 8 and **Figure 4** depict the academic profile of first-time TELS recipients in fall 2022. Overall, first-time recipients in fall 2022 had a marginally lower academic profile compared to the previous cohort. On average, TELS recipients had a high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.54 (as measured on a 4.0 scale) and an average ACT Composite score of 22 (highest possible score of 36). The average high school GPA scores ranged from 2.84 to 3.94 by scholarship program and from 3.46 to 3.66 by system. The average ACT Composite score ranged from 18 to 31 by scholarship program and from 20 to 24 by system.

Specific to recipients of the base HOPE Scholarship, 57% of first-time recipients in fall 2022 met both the high school GPA (3.0+) and ACT Composite score (21+) requirements, with 92% meeting at least the high school GPA requirement and 66% meeting at least the ACT Composite score requirement.

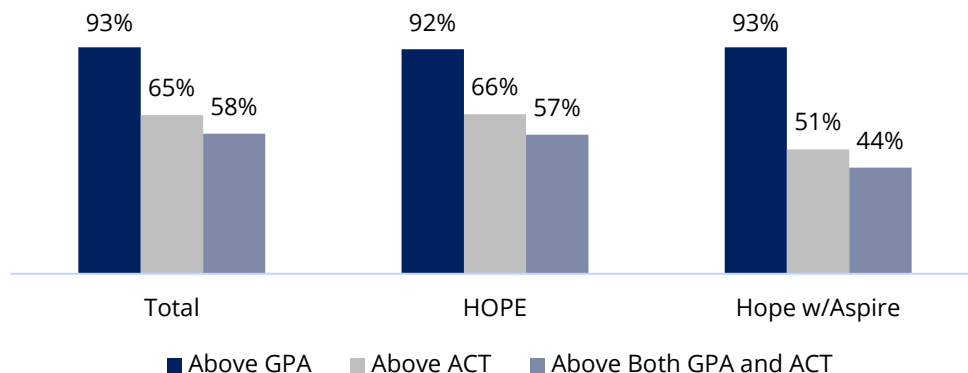
Table 8: Average High School GPAs and ACT Composite Scores of First-Time TELS Recipients by Postsecondary System and Scholarship Type, Fall 2022

		Average High School GPA	Average ACT Composite Score
Scholarship	HOPE	3.52	22
	HOPE w/GAMS	3.94	31
	Hope w/Aspire	3.48	20
	Hope Access	2.84	18
System	LGI Universities	3.50	22
	TBR Community Colleges	3.46	20
	UT Campuses	3.66	24
	Private Institutions	3.62	23
Total		3.54	22

Sources: FAST, THECSIS

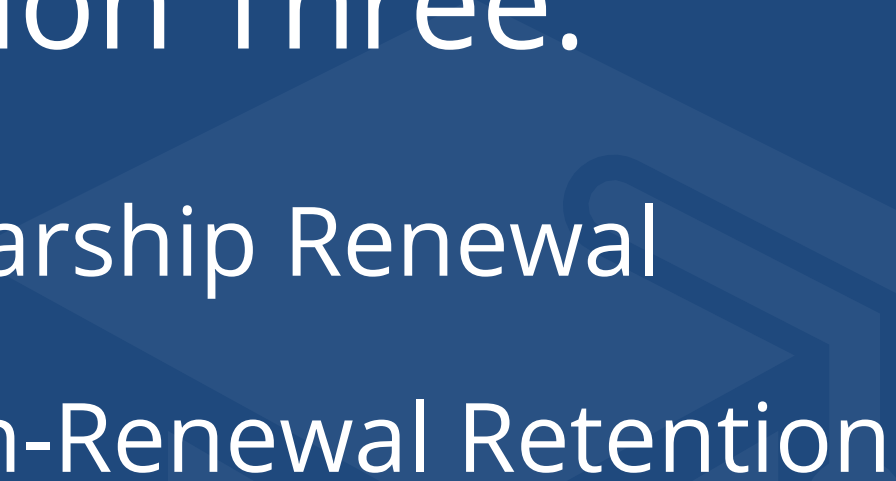
Notes: Missing data on GPA/ACT from FAST are supplemented with data, where available, from THECSIS. Students with missing GPA or ACT scores are excluded. GPA or ACT values of 0 are treated as missing. Eligibility for the Tennessee HOPE Access Grant requires a GPA between 2.75-2.99 *and* an ACT of 18-20. GAMS and Aspire are supplemental awards to the base HOPE award. Students captured in the "HOPE" column are those who only received the base scholarship. UT Southern is included in the UT Campuses system.

Figure 4: Share of First-Time TELS Recipients Achieving GPA and ACT Eligibility Thresholds (excluding HOPE Access), Fall 2022



Sources: FAST, THECSIS

Notes: Students with missing GPA or ACT scores excluded. GPA or ACT values of 0 are treated as missing. The thresholds of 3.0 high school GPA and 21 ACT do not apply to GAMS. GAMS students are included in the Total figures.



Section Three:

Scholarship Renewal & Non-Renewal Retention

Scholarship Renewal & Non-Renewal Retention

This section reports the share of first-time TELS recipients who renewed their scholarship eligibility for a second year (assessed fall-to-fall) and the share of first-time TELS recipients who did not renew their scholarship eligibility but remained enrolled in postsecondary education. Additional analyses of scholarship-loss reasons (as reported by the certifying institutions at the start of term) for past cohorts through fall 2020 have indicated that on average 22.3% of first-time TELS recipients who did not maintain eligibility in the first year lost their scholarship because they did not reapply (i.e., not resubmitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Approximately 33.1% of scholarship loss in the first year was due to non-continuous enrollment. Other scholarship-loss reasons, such as unsatisfactory GPAs, account on average for 44.6% of first-year scholarship loss.

Additional information on HOPE Scholarship eligibility maintenance requirements is available at CollegeForTN.org. See the **TELS Student Success Dashboard** for additional details on renewal and retention rates over time.

Renewal Requirements

TELS recipients are evaluated for scholarship renewal after every 24 attempted credit hours. At the 24- and 48-hour check points, students must have earned a cumulative postsecondary GPA of 2.75 or higher to remain eligible for the scholarship. Upon attempting 72 credit hours, a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required to remain eligible. Credit hour checks continue at each subsequent 24 credit hour check point, up to 120 credit hours.

T.C.A. §49-4-911(a)(2) permits those with 72 or more credit hours to maintain eligibility if their cumulative GPA is less than 3.0 (i.e., via a provisional path), as long as they:

- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75;
- Earned a semester grade point average of at least 3.0 for the semester in which continuing eligibility was reviewed;
- Enrolled full-time in the semester when continuing eligibility was reviewed; and
- Will continue to enroll full-time in the subsequent semester.

The TELS award is available for up to five years after the date of initial enrollment or advanced degree attainment (i.e., a master's degree or a doctorate), whichever comes first. Prior to July 1, 2023, TELS eligibility could terminate upon the student attaining a bachelor's degree.

If a student ceases to be academically eligible for the HOPE Scholarship, the student may regain the award one time only. The award may be re-established once the student meets the required GPA at a subsequent benchmark and maintains continuous enrollment without the HOPE scholarship.

Table 9 reports the share of first-time TELS recipients in fall 2021 who renewed their scholarship eligibility requirements in fall 2022 by their initial scholarship program and the sector of postsecondary enrollment. The statistics reported in **Table 9** use scholarship payments to determine renewal in fall 2022. A student is considered a renewal if they receive a scholarship payment in fall 2022, regardless of whether that payment was made to their initial postsecondary institution.

In total, 58% of TELS recipients renewed their eligibility for a second year, which is a two percentage point increase compared to the fall 2020 cohort and continues the trend of the scholarship renewal rate returning to a pre-pandemic level. The sharp increase in renewal rates observed in the fall 2019 cohort is attributed to TSAC’s temporary rule suspensions concerning scholarship eligibility and maintenance requirements.

Not reflected in **Table 9** but observable in the **TELS Participation Dashboard**, scholarship renewal rates also vary substantially by student demographic groups. For the fall 2021 cohort, 61% of female students renewed compared to 55% of male students. While 60% of White, Not Hispanic students renewed their scholarship eligibility, only 47% of Black, Not Hispanic and 56% of Hispanic students did so. Considering race/ethnicity and gender intersections, 63% of White, Not Hispanic female scholarship recipients renewed, but only 43% of Black, Not Hispanic male scholarship recipients renewed.

Students who were ineligible for a Federal Pell Grant demonstrated higher renewal rates compared to those who were Pell eligible (64% versus 50%). Likewise, a student ineligible for a TSAA grant also had much higher renewal rates than TSAA-eligible counterparts (64% versus 50%). First-generation students renewed at lower rates than their not-first-generation peers (49% versus 63%). Readers are encouraged to explore the **interactive dashboards** accessible via the [TELS Report landing page](#) to learn more about the scholarship renewal rates over time and by student demographic groups.

Table 9: One-Year Scholarship Renewal Rates by Scholarship Program and System, First-Time TELS Recipients, Fall 2021

System		HOPE	GAMS	Aspire	Access	Total
LGI Universities	First-time TELS Freshmen	4,928	623	2,034	64	7,649
	Scholarship Renewal Rate	62%	89%	52%	13%	61%
TBR Community Colleges	First-time TELS Freshmen	6,258	93	1,973	103	8,427
	Scholarship Renewal Rate	47%	86%	38%	16%	45%
UT Campuses	First-time TELS Freshmen	4,015	971	1,284	18	6,288
	Scholarship Renewal Rate	64%	93%	57%	*	67%
Private Institutions	First-time TELS Freshmen	2,642	570	991	28	4,231
	Scholarship Renewal Rate	68%	92%	55%	14%	68%
Total	First-time TELS Freshmen	17,843	2,257	6,282	213	26,595
	Scholarship Renewal Rate	58%	91%	49%	13%	58%

Note: GAMS and Aspire are supplemental awards to the base HOPE award. Students captured in the “HOPE” column are those who only received the base scholarship.

UT Southern is included in the UT Campuses system for the fall 2021 cohort.

Complementing the share of first-time TELS recipients renewing their scholarship eligibility for a second year, **Table 10** reports the share of first-time recipients who did not renew their scholarship eligibility but remained enrolled in postsecondary education. The retention rates below capture enrollment at any Tennessee public college or university (excluding Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology) and at select private institutions, not necessarily enrollment at the same institution where a student originally received a TELS award.

In total, 49% of the non-renewing students in fall 2021 were retained into fall 2022. This represents an increase of two percentage points over last year, though non-renewal retention rates remain lower than pre-pandemic cohorts. The largest increase in retention occurred amongst students initially enrolled in the LGI university sector. HOPE, GAMS, and Aspire all demonstrated increases in non-renewal retention rates over last year. The HOPE Access non-renewal retention rate remained steady with the previous cohort. The trends in non-renewal retention rates observed here mirror the slight rebound in first-time, full-time freshmen fall-to-fall retention rates seen in fall 2022 (as reported in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 of the 2023 [Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book](#)).

Non-renewal retention rates vary across subgroups of scholarship recipients, with some groups approaching pre-pandemic retention rates while others continue to be lower. For example, Pell-ineligible students had a non-renewal retention rate of 54% while Pell-eligible non-renewing students retained at 45%. Readers can explore renewal and retention trends over time across different subgroups of scholarship recipients via the **TELS Student Success Dashboard**.

Table 10: Fall-to-Fall Retention Rate for First-Time Scholarship Recipients Who Did Not Renew their Scholarship Eligibility in Year Two by Scholarship Program and System, Fall 2017 to Fall 2021

		First-Time TELS Recipients				
		Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Non-Renewals	HOPE	8,054	8,480	6,833	8,318	7,486
	GAMS	285	249	184	304	196
	Aspire	4,539	4,233	3,760	3,775	3,215
	Access	333	254	309	256	185
Retention Rate	HOPE	58%	56%	47%	49%	51%
	GAMS	65%	57%	48%	52%	57%
	Aspire	50%	53%	42%	44%	46%
	Access	48%	52%	39%	37%	37%
Non-Renewals	LGI Universities	3,802	3,669	2,847	3,379	2,983
	TBR Community Colleges	5,362	5,275	4,982	5,328	4,665
	UT Campuses	2,385	2,490	1,813	2,329	2,075
	Private Institutions*	1,662	1,782	1,444	1,617	1,359
Retention Rate	LGI Universities	61%	61%	52%	52%	57%
	TBR Community Colleges	44%	45%	36%	39%	39%
	UT Campuses	74%	72%	64%	65%	65%
	Private Institutions*	50%	47%	40%	38%	42%
Total Retention Rate		55%	55%	45%	47%	49%

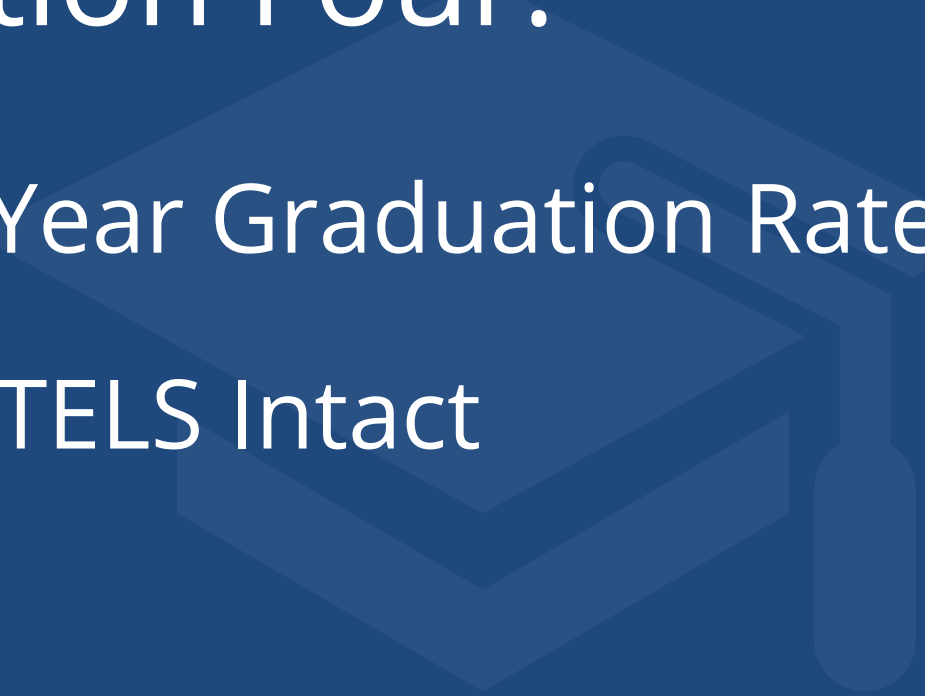
Notes: *Not all private institutions report to P20 Connect. Only private institutions that report to P20 Connect are included in retention rate figures. See the Data Sources, Technical Notes & Definitions section for a comprehensive listing of the private institutions reporting data to P20 Connect at the time of this report.

Retention is not limited to continued enrollment at the admitting/initial institution. Retention rates capture enrollment at any Tennessee public college or university (excluding Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology) and at select private institutions.

UT Southern is included in the UT Campuses system for the fall 2021 cohort only.

Section Four:

Five-Year Graduation Rates with TELS Intact

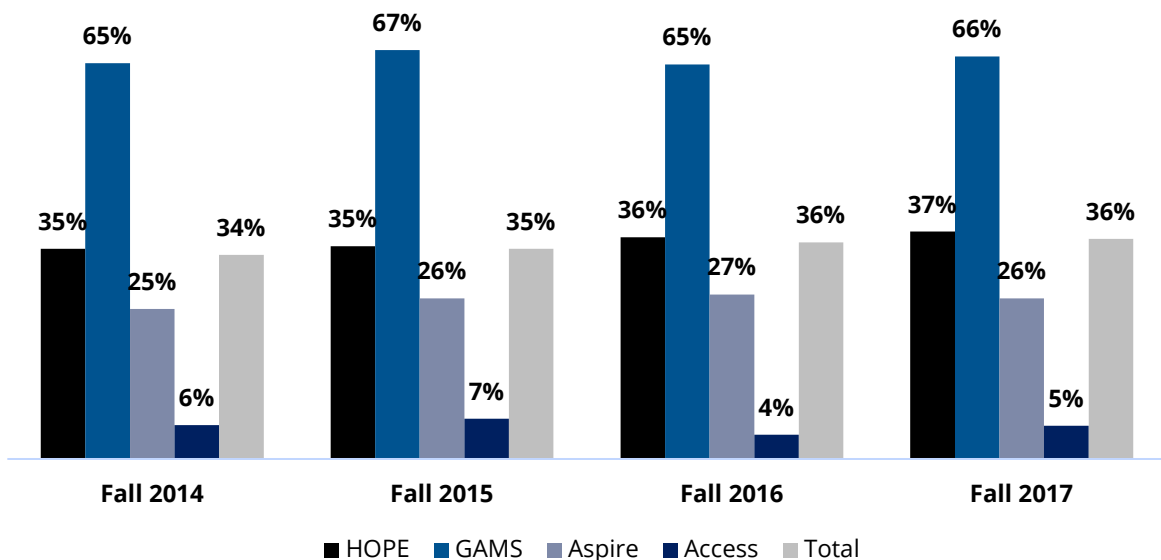


Five-Year Graduation Rates with TELS Intact

The **graduation rate with TELS intact** is defined as the percent of TELS first-time freshmen who attained either **an associate or bachelor's degree within five years** of enrollment without losing scholarship eligibility (i.e., received a TELS award in the same term as their graduation). As of July 1, 2023, TELS eligibility may be renewed for up to five years or the completion of an advanced degree, whichever comes first. From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023, TELS eligibility terminated after five years or the attainment of a bachelor's degree. Prior to July 1, 2021, TELS eligibility could terminate upon the student attempting 120 credit hours (See [Table 2](#) for more information on legislative changes to the TELS program). **Figure 5** reports the graduation rate with TELS intact of first-time TELS recipients, by their initial scholarship receipt.

Overall, 36% of the fall 2017 cohort of first-time TELS recipients earned an associate or bachelor's degree within five years of enrolling and with their scholarship eligibility intact. Not reflected in **Figure 5**, notably higher shares of female recipients graduated within five years with their TELS eligibility intact compared to male recipients (41% versus 30%). Between racial demographic groups, 39% of White, Not Hispanic students maintained scholarship eligibility through graduation, whereas only 22% of Black, Not Hispanic and 29% of Hispanic students did. Pell-ineligible (43%) and non-TSAA recipient (41%) students graduated with their TELS award intact at much higher rates than those who were eligible for Pell (28%) and received TSAA (26%) awards. To learn and explore more about the share of recipients who maintained scholarship eligibility through graduation, readers should refer to the **interactive dashboards**.

Figure 5: Five-Year Graduation Rate with Scholarship Intact by Original Scholarship Program, Fall 2014 to Fall 2017



Note: Graduation rate data for all cohorts incorporates THEC's Student Information System (SIS), P20 Connect, and National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker to identify graduates. Bars represent actual values, while percentages shown are subject to rounding.

Section Five:

6-Year Graduation Rates & Outcomes Over Time

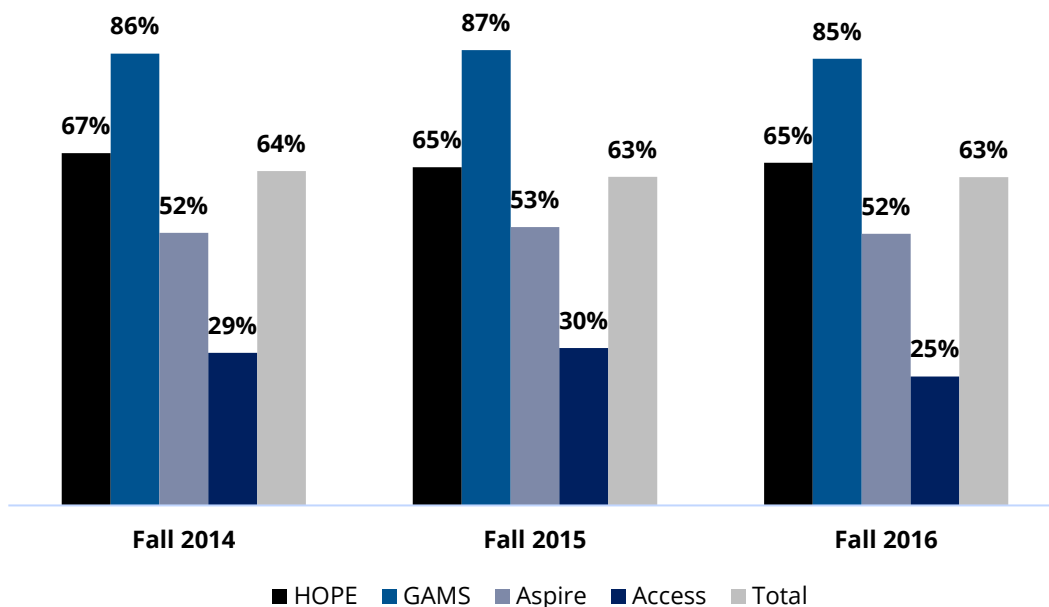


Six-Year Graduation Rates of TELS Recipients

The **six-year graduation rate** is defined as the percent of TELS first-time freshmen who attained either an associate or bachelor's degree **within six years** of enrollment regardless of scholarship status at graduation. **Figure 6** provides the six-year graduation rates of the three most recent cohorts of first-time TELS recipients for which six-year outcomes may be assessed. For first-time TELS recipients in fall 2016, these statistics represent the share of those students who earned an associate or bachelor's degree by the summer of 2022. Across scholarship programs, six-year graduation rates for the fall 2016 cohort ranged from 25% to 85%, with an overall rate of 63%. Beyond differences between scholarship programs, six-year graduation rates also varied notably between student subgroups. White, Not Hispanic female students had a six-year graduation rate of 67% while their male counterparts had a rate of 61%. Black, Not Hispanic male students had a six-year graduation rates of 46% compared to 55% for Black, Not Hispanic females. For additional information on six-year graduation rates, including by academic profile and by student demographic subgroups, readers are encouraged to explore the **TELS Student Success Dashboard** accompanying this report.

Table 11 on the following page provides a longitudinal look into the outcomes of first-time TELS recipients over time, which includes the renewal and retention rates through year five, four-year graduation rates, five-year graduation rates, and six-year graduation rates.

Figure 6: Six-Year Graduation Rate by Scholarship Program,
First-Time Scholarship Recipients
Fall 2014 to Fall 2016



Note: Graduation rate data for all cohorts incorporates THEC's Student Information System (SIS), P20 Connect, and National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker to identify graduates. For the purposes of this analysis, *graduated* includes students who lost their scholarship before attaining a degree.

Outcomes Over Time

Table 11: Scholarship Renewal, Postsecondary Retention, and Graduation Rates by
First-Time Scholarship Recipients, Fall 2016 to Fall 2021

Cohort Year	First-time TELS Freshmen	Fall-to-Fall Cohort Scholarship Renewal Rates				Fall-to-Fall Cohort Retention Rates*				Cohort Graduation Rates			
		Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	within 4 years	on TELS within 5 years	within 5 years	within 6 years
2016	29,102	57%	47%	37%	5%	81%	69%	60%	27%	47%	36%	60%	63%
2017	30,227	56%	46%	37%	5%	79%	68%	59%	26%	47%	36%	58%	
2018	30,207	56%	47%	36%	7%	79%	67%	57%	24%	47%			
2019	30,327	63%	46%	36%		79%	64%	55%					
2020	28,520	56%	44%			75%	63%						
2021	26,595	58%				78%							

Notes: Scholarship renewals and retention rates are fall-to-fall. Retention means a student returned to higher education the following fall with or without the scholarship intact. For these cohorts of students, students are only eligible to receive a TELS scholarship for up to 5 years or the completion of a bachelor's degree, whichever event occurs first. As a result, for the table, renewal and retention rates are not calculated past the fifth academic year. Renewal rates over time and six-year graduation rates are reported within the **interactive dashboards**. Fall-to-fall retention rates beyond Year 2 are not reported in the **interactive dashboards**. The spike in first-time scholarship renewal rates observed for the fall 2019 cohort may be explained by the relaxing of scholarship maintenance rules during the pandemic. *Retention rates represent the share of the cohort who remained enrolled in postsecondary education (data from the P20 Connect system are used to supplement continued enrollment at private institutions) regardless of scholarship renewal or of continued enrollment at the admitting institution.

The two figures below display the outcome trajectory for the fall 2016 cohort of first-time TELS recipients. **Figure 7** depicts the enrollment and renewal statuses for the first five years of TELS eligibility. Students who earned a degree and remained enrolled are captured in either the “Renewed” or “Did not renew, still enrolled” categories depending on whether scholarship termination criteria were met. **Figure 8** shows the share of first-time recipients earning an associate or bachelor’s degree (i.e., graduating) within six years, including students earning an associate degree and remaining eligible for TELS.

Figure 7: Renewal and Retention Through Year 5, Fall 2016 First-Time TELS Recipients

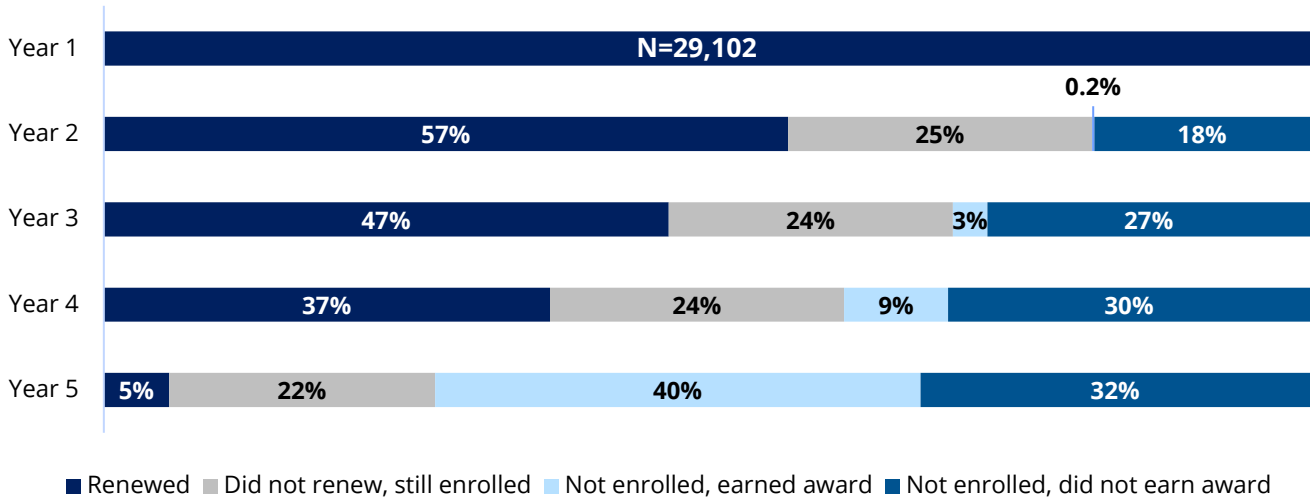
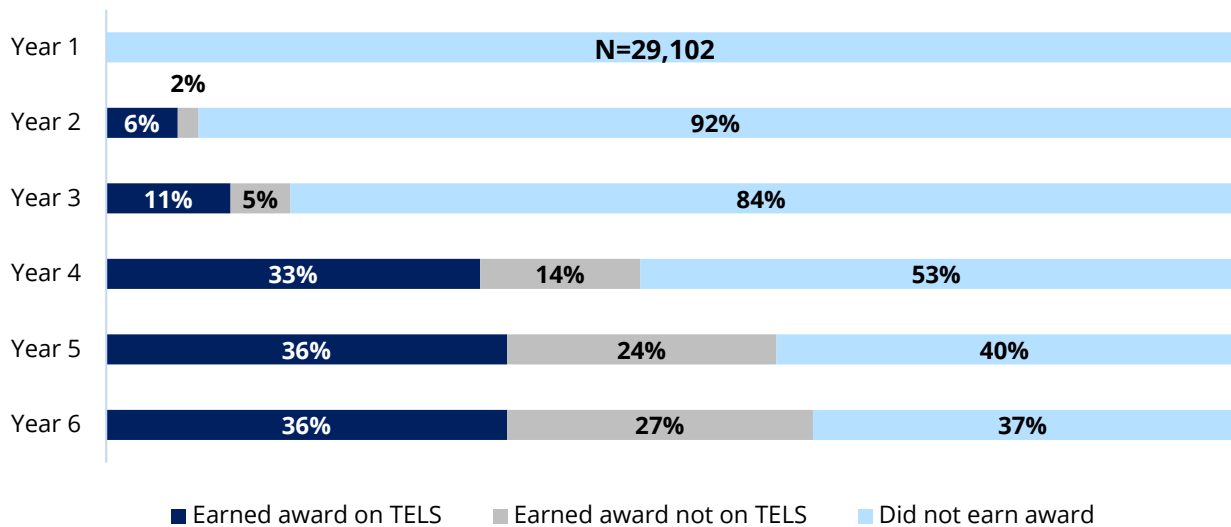


Figure 8: Awards Earned Through Year 6, Fall 2016 First-Time TELS Recipients



Sources: THECSIS; FAST; P20 Connect; National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker

Notes: Scholarship renewal and college retention rates are fall-to-fall. Retention means a student returned to a higher education institution the following fall with or without the scholarship intact.

Awards capture associate and bachelor’s degrees. Students earning an associate degree may continue to be eligible for a TELS award for up to five years or the completion of a bachelor’s degree, whichever occurs first.

Conclusion

This report presented an overview of TELS participation in fall 2022, first-year scholarship renewal and retention of fall 2021 first-time TELS recipients, and complete educational outcomes for first-time recipients through the fall 2016 cohort. The statistics reported here mirror broader trends observed in Tennessee postsecondary education. For instance, the 4% increase in first-time TELS receipt in fall 2022 from fall 2021 (representing 1,119 more students) echoes the small rebound in overall postsecondary enrollment and Tennessee's college-going rate (or the share of high school graduates making a seamless transition from high school to college). For additional information on postsecondary education in Tennessee, readers should refer to the annual [Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book](#) and to THEC's report on [College Going and the Class of 2022](#).

First-year scholarship renewal rates (based on scholarship payment in the second fall after the initial fall of receipt) for the fall 2021 cohort have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Overall fall-to-fall retention rates of first-time scholarship recipients slightly increased for the fall 2021 cohort compared to the previous cohort, which reflects the modest increases in first-time, full-time freshmen retention in Tennessee postsecondary education. Fall-to-fall retention of first-time scholarship recipients who did not renew their scholarship continued to increase, though remains lower than pre-pandemic figures.

The share of first-time scholarship recipients from the fall 2017 cohort that graduated with their scholarship intact remained steady compared to the previous cohort. Six-year graduation rates for first-time scholarship recipients from fall 2016 remained on par with the previous cohort, despite small declines in graduation rates for fall 2016 GAMS, Aspire, and Access students compared to fall 2015 counterparts.

To learn more about the students receiving TELS awards and their postsecondary outcomes, readers should explore the **dashboards** available on the [TELS Report landing page](#), along with a user's guide on navigating the dashboards and a downloadable workbook summarizing TELS participation and outcomes at an institution level. Readers may also find resources on scholarship requirements, copies of historical reports, and links to TSAC's TELS Year-End reports on scholarship allocations across the entire suite of TELS programs and by institution.

New initiatives such as Momentum Year 2023 and the simplified FAFSA will require exploration to see how these initiatives affect incoming students and their access to financial aid. The HOPE scholarship is one of Tennessee's tools to promoting student access, student success, and workforce development. THEC should continue to expand and enhance our data collection for lottery programs, including an expansion on our TICUA collection. These new circumstances and improved data would allow us to reexamine how current policies serve students and promote changes to meet emerging needs.