

Illinois

**\$10,399,898 in Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG) awarded to
13,771 students**

**\$9,340,091 in National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent
(SMART) Grants awarded to 3,058 students**

For ACG and National SMART Grants, students must 1) apply for financial aid by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be determined to be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant; 2) be a U.S. citizen; 3) be enrolled in a two- or four-year degree program; and 4) be enrolled full-time.

The following are Illinois's pre-approved rigorous high school programs of study students must complete to earn an Academic Competitiveness Grant:

- A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative;
- Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.

For more information about these programs visit:
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/smart/performance.html>

**STUDENTS SHOULD SELF-IDENTIFY ON THE FAFSA THAT
THEY TOOK ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS**

Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grants were created in 2006 as part of the President's American Competitiveness initiative. Congress appropriated \$4.5 billion for the programs between 2006 and 2011.

Last year, the Department of Education set a goal to double the number of students receiving ACG and National SMART Grants by 2010-11. States, colleges, and high schools should promote ACG and National SMART Grants because completing a rigorous high school program is the best way to increase college readiness, reduce remediation, and increase college completion rates for low-income students. Increased postsecondary attainment will help the United States compete in the 21st century.

In addition to the Pell Grant amount, up to \$750 will be awarded to eligible first-year ACG students, and up to \$1,300 to second-year ACG students. Up to \$4,000 will be awarded to eligible National SMART Grant students for each year, in addition to the Pell Grant funds. *Colleges and universities should package these grants with the other aid, including state and institutional awards, to provide low-income students an early commitment that if they complete high school and take challenging courses, college expenses can be fully paid.*



Top five schools in Illinois with the highest number of ACG recipients:	
1. University of Illinois At Urbana - Champaign	1,222
2. University of Illinois at Chicago	1,030
3. Northern Illinois University	892
4. DePaul University	786
5. Southern Illinois University at Carbondale	524

Top five schools in Illinois with the highest number of National SMART Grant recipients:	
1. Devry University	890
2. University of Illinois At Urbana - Champaign	407
3. University of Illinois At Chicago	283
4. Loyolla University Chicago	171
5. Southern Illinois University	141

Illinois's Top National SMART Grant majors:	Top Foreign Languages:
1. Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1. Russian Language and Literature
2. Computer Science	2. Japanese Language and Literature
3. Mathematics	3. N/A

The effort in the second year of implementation can be improved upon going forward. To do this, high school and postsecondary personnel, state policymakers, and access advocates should:

- 1. Know your state's approved programs of rigorous study.**
- 2. Accept the challenge to double the number of students in Illinois receiving ACG and National SMART Grants by 2010-11.**
- 3. Advocate for low-income students' access to rigorous, college preparatory classes, and pursuit of high-demand, high-wage majors in the National SMART Grant program.**

Under the ACG program regulations, institutions only have to review the eligibility of a student that has self-identified on the FAFSA as having taken an approved rigorous course of study in high school. Therefore, it is important that your high school students know which approved course of study they've completed and indicate it on the FAFSA. Institutions should consider reviewing the eligibility of all Pell Grant recipients for Academic Competitiveness Grants.



STATE	ACG Program		SMART Grant Program	
	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED
Alabama	5,736	\$3,887,614	899	\$2,562,263
Alaska	189	\$143,934	101	\$269,537
Arizona	3,072	\$2,180,226	2,486	\$7,046,186
Arkansas	4,645	\$3,477,082	449	\$1,323,674
California	40,307	\$29,694,652	7,907	\$22,823,924
Colorado	3,983	\$2,981,254	1,575	\$4,620,619
Connecticut	3,271	\$2,489,464	342	\$1,078,891
Delaware	610	\$402,369	71	\$233,050
District of Columbia	1,352	\$1,230,405	152	\$519,633
Florida	21,653	\$15,026,439	3,197	\$8,606,876
Georgia	12,450	\$9,076,329	1,768	\$4,939,979
Hawaii	568	\$434,125	216	\$675,633
Idaho	2,723	\$1,845,284	1,176	\$3,540,007
Illinois	13,771	\$10,399,898	3,058	\$9,340,091
Indiana	12,355	\$8,816,812	1,340	\$3,919,718
Iowa	6,247	\$4,813,979	885	\$2,727,962
Kansas	3,783	\$2,971,759	770	\$2,310,710
Kentucky	7,755	\$5,414,629	820	\$2,389,337
Louisiana	7,672	\$5,597,922	826	\$2,314,207
Maine	2,347	\$1,794,373	305	\$961,446
Maryland	4,821	\$3,565,998	658	\$1,997,307
Massachusetts	10,738	\$8,967,374	1,490	\$4,991,885
Michigan	9,375	\$7,265,297	2,302	\$6,868,110
Minnesota	7,815	\$6,092,198	1,172	\$3,543,533
Mississippi	5,898	\$4,278,167	562	\$1,725,038
Missouri	7,681	\$5,705,347	1,264	\$3,856,810
Montana	1,235	\$940,998	408	\$1,123,802
Nebraska	3,865	\$2,966,312	375	\$1,168,524
Nevada	519	\$372,649	218	\$674,706
New Hampshire	2,358	\$1,542,001	173	\$585,320
New Jersey	6,322	\$4,930,855	943	\$2,932,274
New Mexico	1,931	\$1,275,077	412	\$1,086,477
New York	33,093	\$24,920,183	5,057	\$14,161,709
North Carolina	14,772	\$10,748,150	1,380	\$4,288,717
North Dakota	1,654	\$1,255,626	222	\$652,882
Ohio	19,667	\$14,298,474	1,928	\$5,442,007
Oklahoma	5,864	\$4,244,069	1,026	\$2,947,474
Oregon	3,166	\$2,361,091	1,162	\$3,279,059
Pennsylvania	23,063	\$18,419,038	3,112	\$9,925,204
Rhode Island	2,401	\$1,790,932	173	\$550,002
South Carolina	8,078	\$6,172,837	758	\$2,356,832
South Dakota	1,803	\$1,458,431	400	\$1,246,577
Tennessee	9,267	\$6,675,111	1,107	\$3,290,043
Texas	35,513	\$24,685,786	3,551	\$10,635,484
Utah	1,345	\$1,048,705	3,248	\$9,987,403
Vermont	1,279	\$1,018,743	226	\$706,289
Virginia	7,092	\$5,374,254	1,091	\$3,309,622
Washington	4,767	\$3,663,900	1,615	\$4,554,368
West Virginia	2,501	\$1,887,660	463	\$1,416,543
Wisconsin	8,444	\$6,640,547	1,208	\$3,750,400
Wyoming	556	\$360,552	73	\$216,566
Total:	401,372	\$297,604,911	66,120	\$195,474,710



06/07 to 07/08 Percentage Change in AC and SMART Grant
Recipients and Funds Disbursed

STATE	ACG Program		SMART Grant Program	
	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED
Alabama	55%	37%	-11%	-17%
Alaska	215%	232%	60%	32%
Arizona	112%	99%	1%	-7%
Arkansas	15%	13%	-9%	-11%
California	35%	27%	10%	1%
Colorado	34%	29%	15%	5%
Connecticut	78%	63%	17%	12%
Delaware	161%	128%	34%	28%
District of Columbia	25%	28%	14%	7%
Florida	33%	26%	21%	6%
Georgia	27%	22%	14%	0%
Hawaii	65%	88%	6%	4%
Idaho	42%	25%	8%	-1%
Illinois	47%	40%	13%	4%
Indiana	45%	32%	10%	5%
Iowa	44%	34%	6%	1%
Kansas	26%	21%	12%	9%
Kentucky	43%	32%	-1%	-12%
Louisiana	19%	16%	-13%	-24%
Maine	39%	31%	34%	22%
Maryland	39%	30%	13%	1%
Massachusetts	27%	25%	12%	5%
Michigan	45%	37%	11%	4%
Minnesota	40%	32%	11%	2%
Mississippi	51%	44%	3%	0%
Missouri	44%	34%	9%	4%
Montana	23%	20%	6%	-10%
Nebraska	26%	21%	2%	3%
Nevada	-1%	-4%	7%	12%
New Hampshire	97%	53%	-11%	-13%
New Jersey	8%	18%	13%	3%
New Mexico	78%	60%	-17%	-25%
New York	33%	25%	20%	8%
North Carolina	28%	21%	5%	-1%
North Dakota	22%	19%	-30%	-34%
Ohio	36%	29%	3%	-7%
Oklahoma	23%	19%	6%	0%
Oregon	37%	29%	5%	-4%
Pennsylvania	22%	23%	9%	4%
Rhode Island	25%	10%	-1%	-14%
South Carolina	48%	43%	8%	3%
South Dakota	27%	27%	18%	14%
Tennessee	38%	31%	7%	-2%
Texas	28%	22%	17%	7%
Utah	81%	71%	-6%	-12%
Vermont	43%	35%	59%	38%
Virginia	18%	15%	12%	2%
Washington	42%	35%	3%	-6%
West Virginia	21%	10%	-2%	-9%
Wisconsin	40%	35%	7%	2%
Wyoming	58%	40%	-13%	-16%
United States	28%	34%	0%	8%

