

Idaho State Board of Education Report on Idaho Opportunity Scholarship

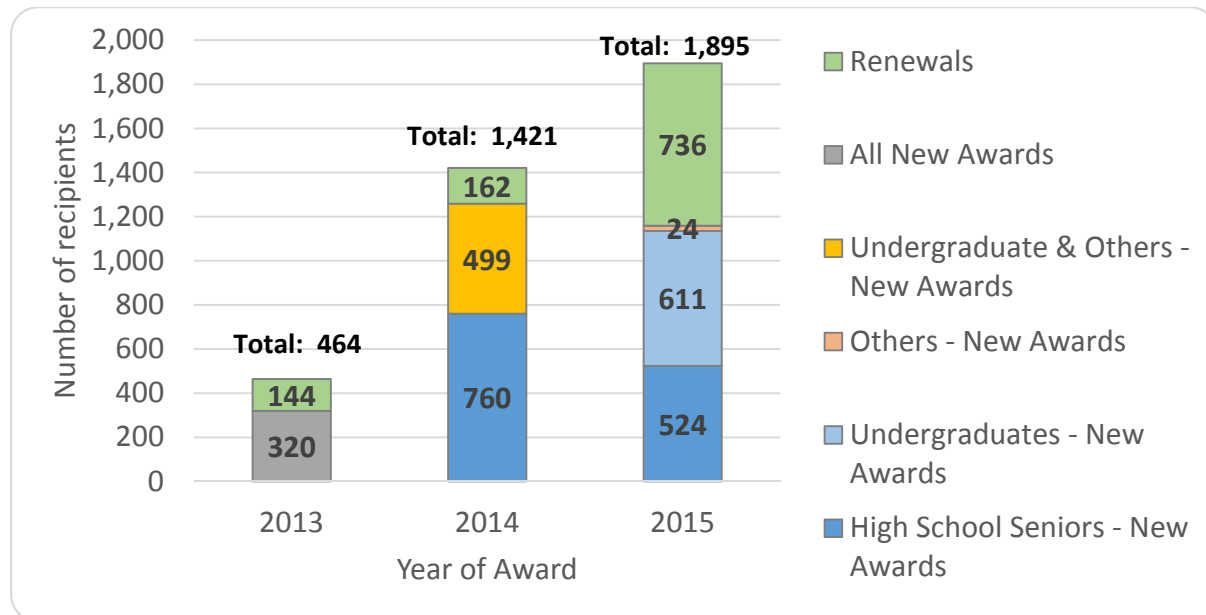


2016

In 2013, the Idaho Legislature expanded the existing Idaho Opportunity Scholarship by directing money from other scholarship programs into the Opportunity Scholarship. Funding for the Opportunity Scholarship increased from approximately \$1.045 million in FY2014 to approximately \$5.127 million in FY2015 and \$5.191 million in FY2016. The Opportunity Scholarship is designed to help low-income, high-achieving Idaho students attend and complete college in Idaho.

Recipients of the Opportunity Scholarship

The number of students receiving the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship has increased dramatically since 2013.¹ In 2013, there were 464 total recipients. Renewals made up 30 percent of the recipients. By 2015, there were 1,895 total recipients and renewals made up almost 40 percent of the recipients.

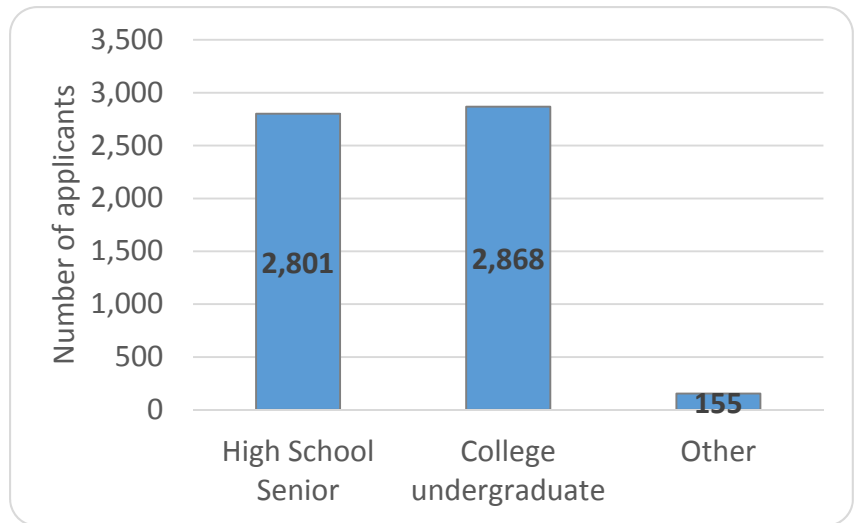


Note: We cannot categorize 2013 recipients as High School Seniors or Undergraduate & Others due to data limitations.

¹ The year of award refers to the calendar year in which the scholarships were awarded. The funds would have been disbursed in the following fiscal year. Specifically, those awarded in Award Year 2015 would have been disbursed in FY2016.

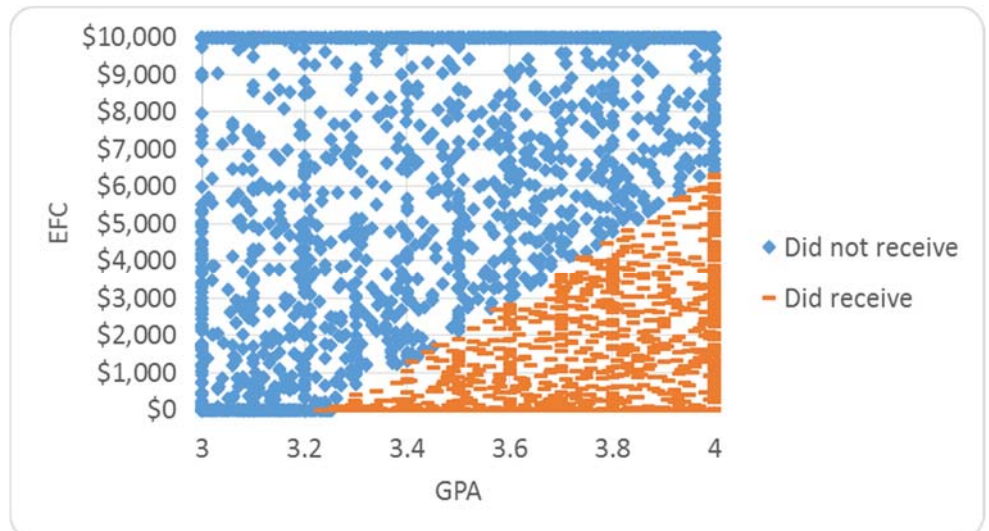
Applications

In 2015, there were 5,824 applications. Due to the high demand of the scholarship and the limited funds available, more than 2,800 applicants with valid GPAs were not awarded the scholarship. Renewal applications are given priority for awards and the remaining balance is then distributed to those students with the highest overall ranking.



The Award Process

The Idaho Opportunity Scholarship has two main selection criteria: academic achievement and financial aid. First-time applicants are ranked using a process that assigns academic achievement a weight of 30% and financial need a weight of 70%. Applicants are then awarded the



scholarship according to that rank. This figure shows the EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) and GPA for those students who received the scholarship versus those students who did not receive it. The weighting process ensures that students with the highest GPAs will qualify with relatively higher EFCs than students with the lowest GPAs and vice versa.

Summary

The average award for students receiving a first-time award (not a renewal) was approximately \$2,900. Students can use the Opportunity Scholarship at any public Idaho institution and BYU-Idaho, Northwest Nazarene University, and College of Idaho.