

Welcome! ESA+ 101

*How to manage your
student's scholarship*



Helpful Hints for Zoom

Slides & Recording will be posted at <https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/esa/esa-family-trainings/>

Zoom has closed captioning available.

Asking Questions:

- Use the Q & A to ask your questions (chat is disabled)
- Please do NOT provide confidential information during this Zoom session
- Email ESA@ncseaa.edu to ask questions about an individual student

Answering Questions:

- Presentation team will answer questions from the Q & A at the end to the extent time is available
- Only questions of general interest related to this session's content will be addressed live





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at a Private School



01

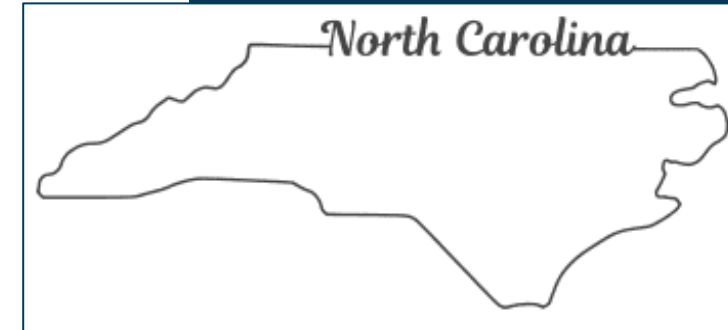
ESA+ Big Picture





North Carolina Law & ESA+ Program Rules

- North Carolina lawmakers established the ESA+ Scholarship Program.
- Our state agency, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) is charged with administering ESA+.
- There are Rules which govern the operations of the ESA+ Program.
- The Education Student Accounts (ESA+) Program is funded by the State of North Carolina.
STATUTE and RULES:
<https://www.ncseaa.edu/psr/k12-programs/>





ESA+ Overview

ESA+ provides scholarships for expenses related to educating a child with a disability in a nonpublic (private or home) school.

Funds can be used for:

- ❑ Tuition and fees at eligible schools
- ❑ Therapeutic services (such as ABA or speech), tutoring, curriculum, and educational technology





ESA+ Award Amounts

The main award level is up to \$9,000 per year.

Students who meet the main eligibility criteria *and* have one of the following designated as the primary or secondary disability on the IEP Eligibility Determination may be eligible for up to \$17,000.

These areas of disability may qualify the student for the higher award amount.

Terms listed as they appear on the Eligibility Determination.

- Autism
- Hearing Impairment, Deafness, Deaf-Blindness
- Intellectual Disability, Moderate or Severe
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Visual Impairment





A quick word about ...

Documentation of a Disability

What should I do if my child's area of disability has changed?

Contact your local public school and request a re-evaluation. A full IEP is not required for this process; only the Eligibility Determination with the updated areas of disability.

When do I have to update my child's documentation?

To remain eligible for the ESA+ program, families must provide updated documentation of their child's disability every 3 years. If your student is new, note that the three-year cycle begins with the date of the IEP Eligibility Determination document.



Need Help?





Enrollment Options

1. Student enrolls in a private school.
 - a. School accepts a direct payment for tuition and fees (*most do this*)
 - b. School does not accept a direct payment (*parents are reimbursed for tuition and fees*)

2. Student enrolls in a home school.

There are part-time enrollment options.





02

LEA Release





Another Form to Sign ...

- ESA+ parents will need to electronically sign a Release of Public School Services.
- Only parents of ESA+ students attending a nonpublic (private or home) school full-time will sign the LEA Release.
- *reference copy-go to <https://www.ncseaa.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1171/2023/08/LEA-Release-Reference-Copy-2023-2024.pdf>

**RELEASE OF LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME THE ESA+
RECIPIENT RECEIVES ESA+ SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

1. I am a Parent or guardian of a student who has been awarded a scholarship ("Scholarship"), consisting of State funds, from the Education Student Accounts for



03

Parent Responsibilities



Parents, You Must ...

- *not* give schools or providers your MyPortal or ClassWallet login credentials.
- spend funds only on behalf of the student who was awarded ESA+.
- notify SEAA immediately if you enroll your student in a public school full time.
- be prepared to submit documentation about expenses.
- return funds used for items or services that aren't allowable expenses.
- *not* request or accept a refund or rebate of ESA+ funds from a school, provider, or any other entity.
- allow your student to be tested (3rd grade and up; requirement excludes home school)





Misuse of Funds

SEAA has zero tolerance for misuse of ESA+ funds. Examples of misspent funds include:

- Using funds for anything other than Qualifying Education Expenses
- Using funds on behalf of someone other than the student awarded an ESA+ scholarship
- Using funds when the ESA+ student is enrolled full time in their regular public school
(The MyPortal record must always accurately reflect the student's enrollment.)

A parent who has made an error in spending should self report and notify SEAA immediately.

ESA@ncseaa.edu or (855) 330-3955





The MyPortal Parent

- “Parent” is defined in the ESA+ Parent Agreement.
- The parent of record must be a parent with whom the child lives.
- Only one parent can be listed in the MyPortal record.

Tip: Is the parent who primarily manages ESA+ business *not* the parent who is listed in MyPortal?

Email ESA+ and request to change the parent of record.

Email is the best way to request information about your student’s record. BUT:

Staff can only respond to the email address listed in MyPortal.

Tip: Need to update your email?

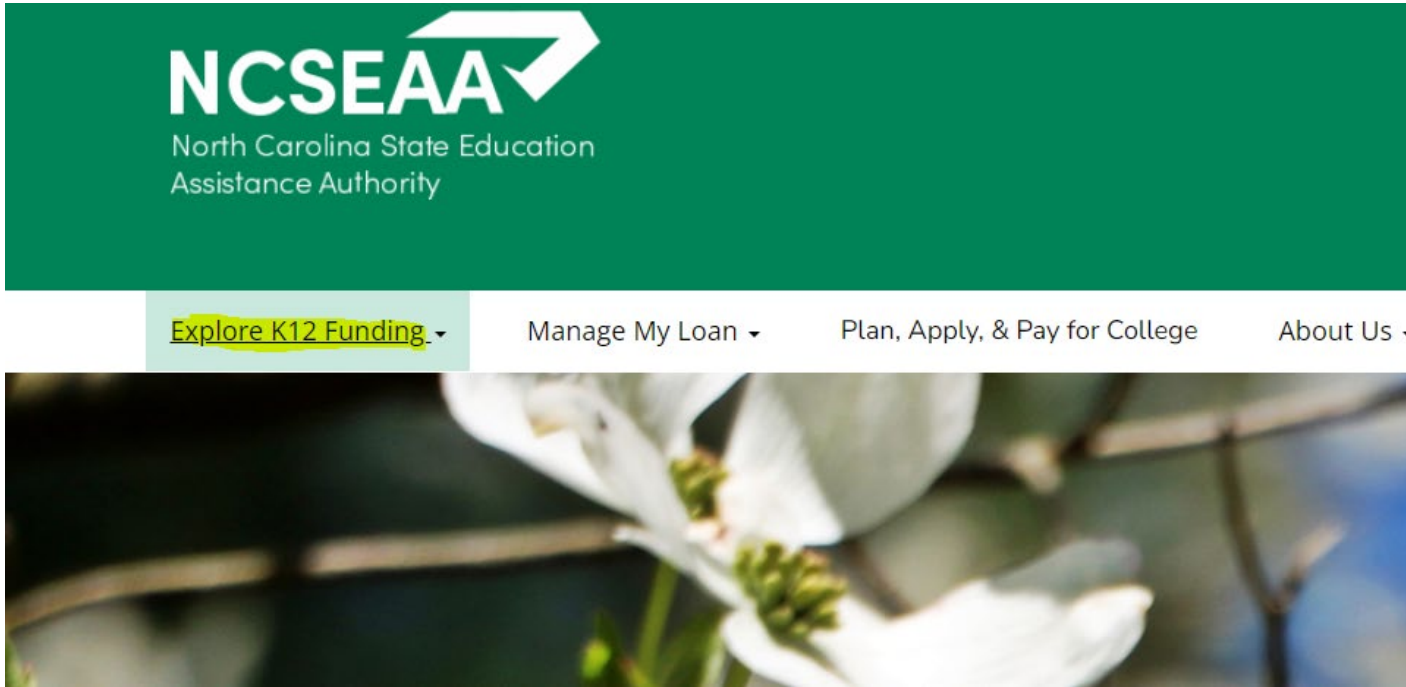
In MyPortal, go to My Contact Information.

04

Resources



Current website: www.ncseaa.edu



Explore K12 Funding



Education Student Accounts (ESA+)

[Home](#) / [Explore K12 Funding](#) / Education Student Accounts (ESA+) Program

[Explore K12 Funding](#)

Education Student Accounts
(ESA+) Program

Education Student Accounts (ESA+) Program

New website: www.k12.ncseaa.edu

Will launch by the end of January 2025 ...



Home Opportunity Scholarship ESA+ About Us  [Access MyPortal ↗](#)

Explore K12 Scholarships

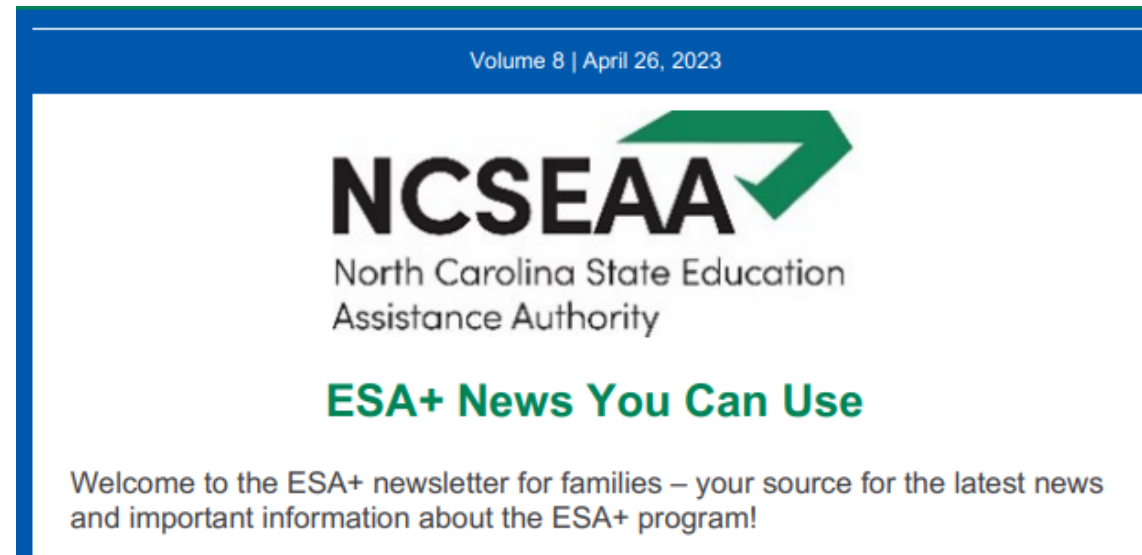
Welcome to the official home of the Opportunity Scholarship and the Education Student Accounts (ESA+) program, which North Carolina families can use to help pay for their children's education. Questions? We can help.





ESA+ Newsletter

The ESA+ newsletter is designed for families of current, awarded ESA+ students. Twice a month you'll receive all the latest news and announcements about the North Carolina ESA+ program.





05

Accessing Funds





Paying for Tuition

(Parents whose students attend a home school do not pay for tuition.)

Direct Payment Schools

School provides cost info to SEAA.
(Certification)



School, then parent, approve payment
to the school electronically in MyPortal.
(Endorsement)



SEAA sends student's ESA+ funding to
the school.
(Disbursement)

ESA+ Reimbursement Schools

Schools are registered with the NC
Division of Non-Public Education
(DNPE) and do not accept a Direct
Payment.

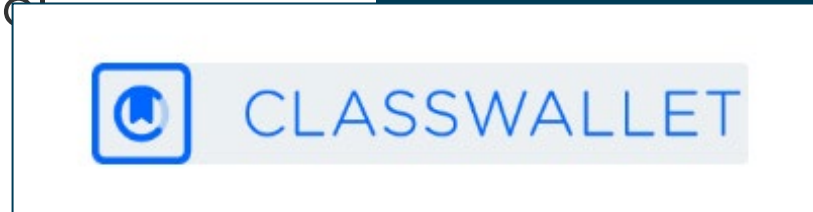
Parents of ESA+ students pay tuition
up front and then submit for
reimbursement from SEAA.





ClassWallet is ...

- A separate company that partners with SEAA
- An online platform that hosts the electronic account on behalf of the ESA+ Program
- Where ESA+ families use scholarship funds to:
 - Make a payment to a service provider
 - Purchase products that are allowable expenses
 - Submit receipts from an ESA+ Reimbursement School





Will You Use ClassWallet?

YES

NO

- Home school
- ESA+ Reimbursement School
- Direct Payment School *(if ESA+ funds remain after tuition and fees are paid)*



Direct Payment School
(where the ESA+ funds pay the tuition and fees with nothing left over)





06

Allowable Expenses





Allowable Expenses



01

Tuition and Fees

02

Services: Educational
Therapies, Tutoring, &

Transportation



03

Products:
Curriculum &

Technology



More Detail about Services & Products

✓ [Tutoring](#)

✓ [Educational Therapy](#)

✓ [Curricula](#)

✓ [Educational Technology](#)

See the ESA+ website for links to explanations about WHICH expenses are allowable, and HOW parents pay for them.

✓ Transportation — ESA+ funds may be used for transportation to/from educational services or activities. Visit the [Search for a Provider portal](#) and enter the search term “transportation” to see a list of registered providers.

✓ Textbooks — Must be required by a nonpublic school and related to one of the following academic subjects: math, science, English/language arts, social studies, or foreign languages.

✓ Standardized Tests — Fees for nationally standardized tests





What is a Provider?





And one final word regarding ...

Service Providers

What does a therapist or tutor need to do for me to pay for their services?

The law that governs the ESA+ Program requires that service providers have appropriate credentials. SEAA asks providers to submit a credential and sign a Provider Agreement.

How can I find a therapist or tutor that is already enrolled with ESA+?

SEAA maintains a list of providers who have already documented their credentials. Use the “Search for a Provider” tool on the ESA+ website.

How to Apply for the ESA+ Scholarship

ESA+ Awarding Process

ESA+ Scholarship Families

ESA+ Family Trainings

Allowable Expenses

Curriculum

Educational Technology

Educational Therapy

Tutoring

Payment Process

Documentation of a Disability

Enroll a Provider

Search for a Provider

ESA+: Statutes, Rules, & Data



Contact Us



www.k12.ncseaa.edu



ESA@ncseaa.edu



855-330-3955



We'd love to
hear from you!