

ESA+ Scholarship Program Information for School Administrators

North Carolina's K12 Scholarship Programs

Helpful Hints for Zoom

Slides will be posted at <https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/school-administrators/webinars/> and a recording of this session will be posted there within a week.

- Zoom has **closed captioning** available

Asking Questions

- Use the Q & A to ask your questions (chat is disabled)
- Email NPS@ncseaa.edu to ask questions about an individual student

Answering Questions

- Presentation team will answer questions from the Q & A at certain points
- Only questions related to this session's content will be addressed live

Agenda

1. Quick overview of ESA+

- Parent steps & requirements
- Funding amounts & timeline

2. Students with both ESA+ and Opportunity Scholarship awards

3. Part-Time Enrollment

4. Schools as Providers





Overview

Two Scholarship Programs

- **The Education Student Accounts (ESA+)** is a program for students with disabilities to attend a nonpublic school (home schools **are** eligible)
- **The Opportunity Scholarship** is an income-based program for students to attend a nonpublic school (funds for home school expenses **are not** allowable)



Program Differences: School Choice Options

Opportunity Scholarship

The school choice must be a K12 **Direct Payment School**

ESA+

The school choice can be a K12 **Direct Payment School** or an **ESA+ Reimbursement School** or a home school

PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

Students who co-enroll in ... will receive...

- Two private schools: regular award **Opportunity / ESA+**
- Private school and public school: regular award **Opportunity**, 50% of the award / **ESA+**
- Private school and home school: regular award **Opportunity / ESA+**



*Home School option is available for the ESA+ Program.
Home school expenses are not funded by the Opportunity Scholarship Program.*

ESA+ Parent Steps and Requirements



Every Year:

All parents must sign and submit a **Parent Agreement**, a **W9**, and a **Release** of public school services.

Continuing Eligibility:

An ESA+ student must also be re-evaluated every three years. Continuing Eligibility can be done at no charge by the public school, or by a psychologist or psychiatrist. The nonpublic school cannot do the re-evaluation.

ESA+ Award Amounts

The main award level is \$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 \$17,000.

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

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

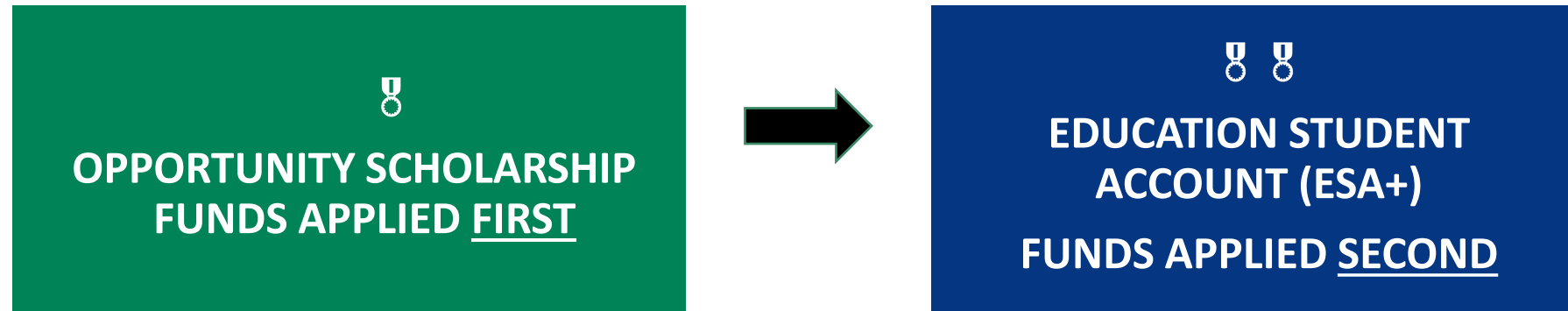
Pending Awards Report

Program	Name	PID	Award Tier	Eligible For Higher Award Amount
---------	------	-----	------------	----------------------------------

Dual Awards

Students with Both Scholarships

Awards are calculated per program. Funds disburse according to each scholarship's award amount.



Disbursement: *on behalf of students with both Opportunity and ESA+ awards*

- 1. Schools** will certify costs: once per student
- 2. Schools** will endorse scholarship amount for each award
(Opportunity and ESA+)
- 3. Parents** will endorse scholarship amounts
(Opportunity and ESA+)
- 4. SEAA** will electronically disburse funds directly to schools on behalf of students

Part-Time Enrollment

ESA+ Co-Enrollment

ESA+ students who co-enroll in ... will receive ...

- two private schools: *regular award*
- private school and home school: *regular award*
- Private or home school, and public school: *50% of the award*



Notes:

- For students enrolled less than full-time, the **school** should know where the student is co-enrolled.
- Students enrolled in home school full-time **cannot benefit from Opportunity Scholarship** funding.
- Students co-enrolled in a Direct Payment School and home school **can only benefit from Opportunity Scholarship** funding for tuition and fees at the D.P. School.



Schools as Providers

Allowable Expenses: *Services*

Tutoring

- **Academic tutoring:** math, science, English/language arts, social studies, foreign language

Therapies

- **Examples:** ABA, audiology, occupational therapy; *more information below*



<https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/esa/8617-2/educational-therapy/>

What Educational Therapy Services Are Allowed?

- ✓ Educational therapy must be **adaptive/therapeutic in nature or designed for students with special needs**. Examples include: applied behavior analysis therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy.
- ✓ Music therapy, art therapy, therapeutic horseback riding lessons/equine therapy: allowable **if** they are adaptive/therapeutic in nature and administered by someone with a professional credential for their field.
- ✓ ESA+ funds can pay for **services** provided by therapists who are registered with SEAA but not necessarily **products** recommended by the therapist. See the lists of [Educational Technology](#) and [Curricula](#) to find out if a product is approved.

In-School Supplemental Services

Examples:

- 1:1 assistance / pull-out services
- Special education services based on individual needs



NOTE:

If your school offers a special education track, the costs are reported as tuition and fees. These are *not* Supplemental Services.

Supplemental Services are *individualized* services for which parents are *billed separately*.

After School Services

Example:

Tutoring or Therapies that are offered outside the regular school day

Do your school employ teachers who are tutoring ESA+ students, and billing parents separately from your school's billing?

Those tutors should enroll themselves individually as providers for ESA+.

If *your school* is billing the parent for these additional services, then your school should review and sign the School Provider Agreement.

Summer Learning Experiences

Does your school offer summer services that are therapeutic and/or academic?



Summer learning experiences are a type of Supplemental Services. ESA+ families can use their scholarship funds to pay for these services.

Credentials

Tutors

1. An active or inactive teaching license from North Carolina or another state
OR
2. Bachelor's degree

Therapists

A license appropriate for their field

Schools do not routinely submit credentials to SEAA for their staff who will provide the Supplemental Services.

Schools should keep the credentials on file pending review by SEAA.

By signing the School and School Employee Provider Agreement, the HDMA will warrant that the staff providing the services are credentialed.

ClassWallet for Schools as Providers of Services

Schools need to sign the School and School Employee Provider Agreement.



Schools set up their bank account to receive the electronic funds transfer from ClassWallet.

Schools provide an invoice to the parent which matches the amount the parent will be transferring to the school.

Schools should show a line item for the transaction fee on the invoice *if* that fee is charged back to the parent.

Parents (not schools) are responsible for uploading the invoice to ClassWallet. After the invoice is approved by **ESA+ staff**, the payment will transfer electronically to the school.

Service Provider Invoice for Schools as Providers



- Name of school
- Student name
- Name of parent paying the expense
- What service the payment is for
- Dates of services
- Transaction fee as a line item, if charged to the parent

Tip: A parent cannot pay more than the invoice amount. Most often, the invoice amount will match the amount the parent will transfer.

Service Provider Payment: 2.5% Fee

The ESA+ electronic account structure includes a 2.5% transaction fee, similar to the fees for payments made by credit card.



- A school / provider that does not charge for credit card fees may not charge the ClassWallet transaction fee to ESA+ families.
- If schools / providers charge the transaction fee to ESA+ parents, parents can pay it with ESA+ funds. *The provider should include the fee as a line item on the invoice so that the parent pays the exact amount required.*

SEAA RESOURCES

School & Provider Support Team

Work with the same team that assists you with your Direct Payment needs

NPS@ncseaa.edu

(919) 695-8742 (schools only)

ESA+ Team

Can assist you with unique ESA+ expense questions, also provides customer service to parents

ESA@ncseaa.edu (for school questions, email is best)

(855) 330-3955 (for parents)

<https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/school-administrators/esa-program-providers/> Use the link in the left-side navigation – from your School Administrators page

Supplemental Services



CONTACT US



ncseaa.edu



NPS@ncseaa.edu



(919) 695-8742

Monday-Friday: 9am-3pm

Please insist that staff at your school who are managing K12 Scholarship Program processes view a **recording** of these trainings if they have not attended the webinars.

Other webinars in this series include:

- Payment Processing
- Student Withdrawals
- Financial Review
- Best Practices