

## **Guidance to Nonpublic Schools: Reimbursement to Parents December 2024**

This policy provides explicit guidance to schools regarding reimbursement of scholarship funds directly to parents of fall 2024 tuition costs, subsequent to the December 3, 2024 scholarship award offers for the 2024-25 school year.

Direct reimbursement to parents of scholarship funds by the school is not routinely permitted. Schools should not charge parents tuition and/or fees covered by a scholarship received by a student under the Opportunity Scholarship or ESA+ Program (collectively, the “K12 Programs”), in advance of direct disbursement to the school.

In the legislation enacted into law in late November 2024, SEAA is specifically directed to disburse additional scholarship funds for the 2024-25 school year for eligible students in accordance with S.L. 2024-55. Further, under the new legislation, nonpublic schools are specifically directed to reimburse the parents of the newly awarded students the required tuition and fees parents had previously paid for fall 2024; costs that are now covered by the K12 Programs.

### **Reimbursement to Parents in Early 2025**

In January 2025, SEAA expects schools to complete Certification for the newly awarded students. Note:

- Although some students may have attended in fall 2024, they may not be eligible for retroactive fall scholarship funding. Schools should adhere to the [guidelines for student eligibility](#) for retroactive fall 2024 funding, as explained in training and other guidance.
- The retroactive funding is limited to required tuition and fees.

Schools will complete Certification, then both schools and parents will complete Endorsement of the fall 2024 funding. Schools are expected to reimburse the parent the costs that are now covered by the scholarship within sixty (60) days of the deposit of those funds from SEAA. Schools are responsible for arranging the method of reimbursement with the parent or the guardian.

Schools may not require that these funds be applied to a future payment or any other costs. Schools must offer a refund directly to the parent who paid the costs now being covered by the scholarship. Only at the parent’s direction may the reimbursement be applied to another payment.

### **Supplemental Services**

For schools that also function as a provider of tutoring or therapy to ESA+ students, note that only a school provider enrolled with SEAA at the time of the fall 2024 services may seek payment for services rendered in fall 2024. ESA+ funds deposited in student accounts will also be available to cover expenses for the remainder of the school year (Spring 2025), including any supplemental services rendered by a school enrolled as a provider with SEAA.