

What steps should a nonpublic school take before deciding to participate in the Opportunity Scholarship Program?

1. Review the legal requirements for the Opportunity Scholarship Program. Note the statutory obligations for the nonpublic school found in [G.S. § 115C-562.5](#).
2. Review the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Program [Participation Agreement](#).
3. Determine whether the nonpublic school can meet the requirements of the program.
4. Contact the SEAA with any questions about the obligations and responsibilities for participating nonpublic schools:
 - Telephone: 1-855-330-3955 (toll-free); and
 - Email: OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu.

What is some of the information a nonpublic school has to provide SEAA before its students can receive an Opportunity Scholarship?

1. A copy of your tuition and fee schedule, and any tuition and fees policies.
2. Documentation of the required tuition, fees, and other required items charged to each Opportunity Scholarship Program participant.
3. Verification that a criminal background check has been performed on the person with the highest decision-making authority at the school to confirm that he or she has not been convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332(a)(1). Please use this [form](#) to submit the results of the background check to the SEAA.

What are some of the other responsibilities of a nonpublic school in the Opportunity Scholarship Program?

1. Administer at least once a year, a nationally standardized test to Opportunity Scholarship recipients and submit the data to the Authority by July 15 of each year.
2. Provide the SEAA with the graduation rates of the students receiving Opportunity Scholarships in a manner provided by the SEAA.
3. Starting in academic year 2015-16, a nonpublic school that receives more than \$300,000 in payments from the Opportunity Scholarship Program must contract with a CPA to perform a financial review, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, and provide the SEAA a copy of the report generated from that review.
4. Sign an Opportunity Scholarship Grant Program [Participation Agreement](#).
5. Do not require students receiving an Opportunity Scholarship to pay any additional tuition or fees because of their status as an Opportunity Scholarship Program participant.
6. Complete an IRS Form W-9, which is required to issue payment.

What is an eligible nonpublic school for the Opportunity Scholarship Program?

An Opportunity Scholarship Program eligible nonpublic school is identified by the North Carolina Division of Nonpublic Education and has signed an Opportunity Scholarship Grant Program Participation Agreement.

What is the process to become an eligible nonpublic school for the Opportunity Scholarship Program?

Go to http://www.ncseaa.edu/OSG_NPS.htm and register with the SEAA. The registration process will prompt you to provide the above-described information and guide you through the process of executing an Opportunity Scholarship Grant Program Participation Agreement.

What happens if an eligible nonpublic school fails to comply with the Opportunity Scholarship Program requirements?

Students attending the nonpublic school will be ineligible to receive Opportunity Scholarships.

Does the nonpublic school have to provide free or reduced price lunch to scholarship students?

No, to be eligible for the scholarship, a student must reside in a household whose total income would qualify the student for free or reduced price lunch, but the school is not required to provide lunch.

What if a nonpublic school has additional questions?

Contact the SEAA with any questions about the obligations and responsibilities for participating nonpublic schools:

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- Email: OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu.

Continue to check the Opportunity Scholarship Program website at <http://www.ncseaa.edu/OSG.htm>