Disabilities Grant and ESA Programs: What are Qualified Expenses?

The Disabilities Grant (DGrants) Program may reimburse families for qualified expenses related to educating a child with disabilities. The Education Savings Account (ESA) Program provides funds in an electronic debit account, also for families to pay for qualified expenses related to educating a child with disabilities.

The purpose of this document is to explain qualified expenses (other than required tuition and fees at a participating nonpublic school) for both the DGrants and ESA Programs.

Textbooks
- Required by the participating nonpublic school

Tutoring and teaching services
- Provider registered with and approved by SEAA

Curricula
- Grade appropriate
- Supports an academic program
- Membership to online curriculum acceptable

Fees for nationally standardized tests
- Available for homeschool families with qualified receipt
- Not available for students enrolled in participating nonpublic schools

Fees for services provided by a public school
- ESA only
- Seek direction from SEAA before paying for services

Educational therapies
- Provider registered with and approved by SEAA
- Adaptive/therapeutic in nature or designed for students with special needs

Educational Technology is defined separately

Student transportation
- Provider registered with and approved by SEAA
- Transportation to and from educational services or activities

Excluded expenses:
- Consumable educational supplies like paper, markers, printer cartridges
- Household items
- Field trips
- Tickets/registration to events
- Membership to organizations
- Out of state services
- Sports equipment
- Furnishings (e.g. a desk or chair)
- Musical instruments
- Driver Education Classes/Courses

Providers:
Providers of tutoring and teaching services, educational therapies, or transportation may not be a member of the student’s immediate family or a member of the households of the student’s Home School if the student is in a Home School. Providers must register with SEAA. SEAA will review the provider credentials to determine whether the provider holds a license that meets the requirements of the DGrants and ESA Programs, including accreditation by a State, regional or national organization that is acceptable to SEAA.

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Nothing in this document should be construed to supersede the Program Statute, Program Rules or other Program policies. In addition, these policies do not represent an exhaustive list of all Program rules; rather, these policies are set forth to provide a broad overview of the Program. See the Program Rules and Statutes on each Program’s website for more details.