Disabilities Grant Program

Information for Parents and School Administrators
What is the Disabilities Grant Program?
Disabilities Grant Program

Expands school choice for eligible students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

- For tuition and required fees at a participating nonpublic school, and certain other expenses related to educating a child with a disability

- Awards up to $4,000 per student per semester.
NCSEAA administers the program

- Manages the application and award process.
- Ensures the school meets program requirements.
- Verifies each student’s eligibility.
- Disburses Disabilities Grant funds.
Which nonpublic schools participate in the program?
Participating schools list

http://www.ncseaa.edu/CDSG.htm

Disabilities Grant Program

What is the Disabilities Grant Program?

The Disabilities Grant Program is a program for eligible students with disabilities in Kindergarten through 12th grade to provide an option for parents to pay tuition, fees, and some other expenses at a participating school or homeschool.

The 2019-20 new student application for the Disabilities Grant Program opens February 1, 2019. Applications received through the priority deadline of March 15 are not considered on a first-come, first-served basis. New student awards will be offered to eligible students selected by lottery according to the new student priorities; see the Program Overview. Students on applications received by March 15 will be entered in the lottery. The application will close June 1, 2019.

Apply via MyPortal. Click here for MyPortal assistance.

Note: Children who are placed in a nonpublic school by their parents do not have a right to receive all of the special education and related services that they would receive if enrolled in the public schools. Likewise, a private school does not have a legal obligation to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities. Parents are encouraged to select a nonpublic school carefully and to establish a plan prior to enrollment which meets their child’s educational needs.

Eligibility and Processes

Webinars

Choosing a School

Contact Information:
Phone: 1-855-330-3955
Email: DGrants@ncseaa.edu

MyPortal
Can public schools participate?
Public schools where tuition is required

- Tuition may be required if a student attends an out-of-district public school.
- Disabilities Grant can reimburse a family for this tuition.
- Disabilities Grant cannot reimburse other expenses besides tuition to this same family.
What types of expenses does the Disabilities Grant cover?
Categories of expenses

Tuition

A. Direct disbursement to nonpublic schools on behalf of students
   
   Schools are registered with North Carolina’s Division of Nonpublic Education (DNPE) and with SEAA

B. Reimbursement to parents on behalf of students
   
   Schools are registered with DNPE but not SEAA
Categories of expenses

*Families may also be reimbursed for the following expenses:*

- **Tutoring and Teaching Services:** instruction from a qualified provider
- **Curricula:** materials which support an academic program
- **Educational Therapies:** such as speech therapy or physical therapy from a qualified provider
- **Educational Technology:** used primarily for educational purposes for a child with a disability
How do I know if my student is eligible to apply for a Disabilities Grant?
Eligibility

An eligible student meets all these requirements.

- is 5 years old on or before August 31.
- has not graduated from high school.
- is a resident of North Carolina.
- Is a child with a disability who requires special education, as documented by the public school IEP (Individualized Education Program).
Eligibility (continued)

An eligible student meets at least 1 of these requirements.

- received a Disabilities Grant last year (Priority 1)
  - was a full-time student enrolled in a NC public school or a Department of Defense school in North Carolina during the spring semester before the Disabilities Grant will be used (Priority 2)

- has a parent on full-time active military duty, is a foster child, or was adopted within the last year (Priority 2)

- is entering kindergarten or 1st grade (Priority 2)

- has lived in North Carolina at least six months but does not meet the requirements above (Priority 3)
I want to apply.
Where do I find the application?
Forms online www.ncseaa.edu

New Student Application:

1. Create a MyPortal account (use parent information)

2. Add a student (can only add student when applications are available)

Renewals: Log on to MyPortal. Click on Respond to Renewal Offer.
When do I submit my completed application?
Application period begins
What specific document do I need from the IEP process?
IEP (Individualized Education Program)

- Issued by the NC public school system.
- Specific document is the **DEC3 or ECATS Eligibility Determination**, 
- Dated within the last three years.
- *Initial eligibility* requires a current DEC3.
- *Continuing eligibility* requires a re-evaluation every three years by the NC public school system *or* by a NC licensed psychologist with a school psychology focus *or* by a NC licensed psychiatrist.
How do I know if my application was received by SEAA?
The Disabilities Grant Program no longer selects award recipients on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligible new students on applications received by the priority deadline of March 15 will be selected via lottery for awards according to the new student priorities.
When will I find out if I’m going to get the Disabilities Grant?
Award notification starts in ...

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How is the school paid?
NCSEAA may send grant funds directly to the school for tuition

* You must **sign** via the electronic endorsement process **before** any payments can be sent to your school.
How are the families paid?
NCSEAA may reimburse the parent for certain qualified expenses

The Disabilities Grant Program uses a vendor to facilitate reimbursement processing. This vendor, ClassWallet, handles the collection of receipts from families.

Program questions should continue to be addressed to the Disabilities Grant Program staff.

Parents of student recipients must submit a W9 before a reimbursement payment can be made.
Additional Information

- www.ncseaa.edu
- DGrants@ncseaa.edu
- 1-855-330-3955 (toll-free)