

This document contains updates regarding the administration of the Education Savings Account (ESA) Program as a result of House Bill 90, which was ratified on February 13, 2018. SEAA anticipates that the Governor will sign this legislation shortly and that House Bill 90 will become law. Therefore, SEAA presents expected procedural changes resulting from the new legislation below. See the [ESA website](#) for general information about the program.

Eligibility

A student who is eligible to attend public school in North Carolina may now be eligible for an ESA regardless of current or prior public school enrollment. Students must still have an active North Carolina public school Individualized Education Program (IEP) as documentation of a disability, and other eligibility criteria apply. [Learn more](#) about the required documentation for the ESA Program. Note that for school year 2018-19, all ESA applicants are considered first time applicants.

Priority of 2018-19 Awards

The ESA Program will give priority in awards to applicants with one or more specified disabilities listed in the legislation. The students who will be given priority in awards must meet the eligibility criteria *and* must have DEC3 Eligibility Worksheets which document at least one of the following specified disabilities: autism; developmental delay; hearing impairment; moderate or severe intellectual disability; multiple, permanent orthopedic impairments; or visual impairment.

In order to be given priority for a scholarship award, a student's disability must be documented as the primary or secondary area of eligibility on the DEC3 Eligibility Worksheets provided in the North Carolina public school IEP Eligibility Determination process. Please note that in addition to the student's DEC3 Eligibility Determination form, parents must now also provide the student's DEC3 Eligibility Worksheets which list the area of eligibility.

Award Amounts

ESA awarded students who attend private school full time may still receive up to \$9,000 for the fiscal year. ESA awarded students who attend public school part time *and* attend a private school which exclusively serves students with disabilities, as identified by SEAA, may only receive up to \$4,500 for the fiscal year.

Timeline for 2018-19 Awards

- **February 1, 2018:** The ESA application opened.
- **March 1, 2018:** The March 1 priority deadline has been extended to April 2.
- **April 2, 2018 :** The ESA application will close at midnight.
All eligible students on applications received by midnight on April 2 will be entered into a lottery.
 - Students who meet the priority criteria defined above will be selected first, according to lottery number.
 - Students who do not meet the priority criteria defined above will then be selected according to lottery number until funding is exhausted.
- **April 30, 2018:** Award notifications will be posted by the end of April. ESA awards are expected for approximately 300 students.

ESA@ncseaa.edu (855) 330-3955