Opportunity Scholarship Program: Frequently Asked Questions (Families)

Fall 2015 Opportunity Scholarship Offers

Students offered an Opportunity Scholarship

I have not chosen a school for my student.
You have a short window of time to choose a school and enroll. If you have not accepted the Scholarship offer and chosen a school by the deadline in your offer letter, then we will assume you are not interested and place you back on the waitlist.

My student started this year in public school. Do we have to transfer to a nonpublic school now?
No. You can opt to begin using the Opportunity Scholarship for the spring semester. Log on to the Student Portal and accept the Scholarship. Choose the “spring-only” option. You cannot reserve the Scholarship for next year.

I changed my mind and do not want my student to attend a nonpublic school this year. Can I keep the Opportunity Scholarship until next year?
No. If you do not use the Opportunity Scholarship this year (school year 2015-16) and want to be considered for next year (2016-17) you’ll need to reapply as a new student. The application for next year will be available on February 1, 2016.

When will my nonpublic school be paid?
SEAA will work with the nonpublic schools to ensure payment efficiently. It’s not possible to predict a date by which any particular school will receive funds for a particular student.

Students entering kindergarten or first grade

I applied for all of my students. The older ones were offered an Opportunity Scholarship, but my student in first grade was not. How is that possible?
According to the statute which governs the Opportunity Scholarship Program, no more than 35% of new student funding can be used for students entering either kindergarten or first grade.

Will my kindergarten or first grade student who was not awarded receive priority as a new applicant for the 2016-17 school year?
No.

If I enroll my kindergarten or first-grade student in the nonpublic school this year (2015-16) at my own expense, will they still be eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship for 2016-17?
It depends. Students who do not receive Opportunity Scholarship funding this year (2015-16) will need to apply as new students for next year (2016-17). A kindergarten student in 2015-16 will be entering first grade in 2016-17 and will not need to meet the prior public school enrollment requirement. A first grade student in 2015-16 will be entering second grade in 2016-17 and will need to meet the prior public school enrollment requirement. Full eligibility details are in the main Frequently Asked Questions for the Opportunity Scholarship Program.
Students on the waitlist

When will I find out if my student can receive a Scholarship?
Families of students who have been offered a Scholarship have until mid-October to respond. It is possible that additional Scholarships will be offered to waitlisted students in early November, if Scholarship recipients decline the Scholarship which is offered to them.

What is the order of students now being chosen for a Scholarship?
Eligible applicants who applied in February but were not chosen in the lottery will first be offered a Scholarship. Next, eligible applicants who applied after March 1, 2015 will be offered a Scholarship in the order in which their applications were received. Scholarships can only be offered to the extent that funding permits, and the General Assembly places certain restrictions on the Scholarship awards.

Students who are ineligible

I made a mistake on the Opportunity Scholarship application. How do I fix it?
- No corrections to your information can be made over the phone. Email SEAA at OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu to request corrections.
- If we have the incorrect birthdate for your student, submit a copy of the birth certificate to SEAA.
- If your household income or household size was reported incorrectly, send an email. SEAA will initiate the Income Verification process for you to correct your information.
- If your student was in public school for spring 2015, and your portal indicates that SEAA records do not reflect that, request a public school transcript for your student and submit it to SEAA.

For general Opportunity Scholarship questions, consult the regular Frequently Asked Questions online.

To send documents securely to SEAA:
Upload via the Opportunity Scholarship Portal, or email to OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu. Faxing and mailing hard copies are not recommended.