Opportunity Scholarship Program

Information for Parents and School Administrators
What is the Opportunity Scholarship Program?
Opportunity Scholarship Program

Expands school choice for eligible students in kindergarten through 12\textsuperscript{th} grade.

- Covers tuition and required fees at a participating nonpublic school.
- Awards up to $2,100 per student per semester ($4,200 per school year).
NCSEAA administers the program.

- Manages the application and award process.
- Ensures the school meets program requirements.
- Verifies each student’s eligibility.
- Disburses Opportunity Scholarship funds.
Which nonpublic schools participate in the program?
Opportunity Scholarship Program

Participating schools list

NCSEAA
North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Opportunity Scholarship Program

The Opportunity Scholarship Program expands school choice in kindergarten through 12th grade. This program provides funds for students to attend a participating nonpublic school.

The ongoing legal challenge to the Opportunity Scholarship program was upheld by the Supreme Court. The Opportunity Authority will send funds to the nonpublic schools enrolling scholarship recipients.

To apply for the Opportunity Scholarship for the first time, complete the application by March 1, 2015. Students who have not received an Opportunity Scholarship are eligible.

All eligible applicants who apply after March 1, 2015 are placed on a waiting list. Applicants are matched to nonpublic schools based on their lottery number. Applicants who apply after March 1, 2015 may be placed on the waiting list.

When the NC General Assembly completes the budget process, the Opportunity Authority will send funds to additional students.

For full details, read the Opportunity Scholarship Program Overview.

Opportunity Scholarship Portal
Program Overview
Current List of Nonpublic Schools
Household Income Worksheet
Opportunity Scholarship FAQ
Information for Nonpublic Schools
How do I know if my student is eligible to apply for a Scholarship?
Eligibility Part 1

An eligible student meets all Part 1 requirements.

- ✔ is 5 years old on or before August 31
- ✔ lives in an eligible household
- ✔ has not graduated from high school
- ✔ is a resident of North Carolina
- ✔ has not been in college
Eligibility Part 2

An eligible student meets **at least 1** Part 2 requirement.

- received an Opportunity Scholarship last year
- was a full-time student attending a NC public school or Department of Defense school in NC last spring semester
- is entering kindergarten or 1st grade
- is in foster care or was adopted within the last year
- has a parent on full-time active duty with the military
What are the Household Income Guidelines?
# Household Income Eligibility Guidelines 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># in Household</th>
<th>$4,200 Award Limit</th>
<th>Maximum Household Gross Income for 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To receive full tuition up to $4,200</td>
<td>To receive 90% of tuition</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$30,451</td>
<td>$40,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$38,443</td>
<td>$51,129</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>$46,435</td>
<td>$61,759</td>
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<td>$78,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>$102,379</td>
<td>$136,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>$110,371</td>
<td>$146,793</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Opportunity Scholarship will be for 90% of the required tuition and fees or $4,200, whichever is less.
There are 3 people in my household, and our total household income in 2017 was $33,500. I might want my student to attend Nonpublic School A where the required tuition and fees are $3,800 a year, but I’m also considering Nonpublic School B where the required tuition and fees are $5,200 a year. What are my options under the program?

Nonpublic School A | Nonpublic School B
---|---
Tuition | $ 3,800 | $ 5,200
Award | -- $ 3,800 | -- $ 4,200
Your portion | $ 0 | $ 1,000

Since the tuition and fees are less than $4,200, The Opportunity Scholarship pays the entire amount. The Opportunity Scholarship pays $4,200 towards tuition and fees. You are responsible for the $1,000 difference.
There are 2 people in my household, and our total household income in 2017 was $33,500. I might want my student to attend *Nonpublic School A* where the required tuition and fees are $3,800 a year, but I’m also considering *Nonpublic School B* where the required tuition and fees are $5,200 a year. What are my options under the program?

Since the total household income is less than $40,500 but greater than $30,451, you are eligible for 90% of the required tuition and fees. The Opportunity Scholarship Program will pay 90% or $4,200, whichever is less.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonpublic School A</th>
<th>Nonpublic School B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$ 3,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>-- $ 3,420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your portion</td>
<td>$ 380</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$ 5,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Max Award</td>
<td>-- $ 4,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your portion</td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
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The tuition and fees are less than $4,200. The Opportunity Scholarship pays 90% of the cost. The Opportunity Scholarship pays $4,200 towards tuition and fees. You are responsible for the $1,000 difference.
My student meets all the eligibility requirements.

Where do I find the application?
Forms are online.

New Student Application:  

www.NCSEAA.edu

Renewing Student Application:

• Via the Opportunity Scholarship Student Portal.

• The parent completes a separate renewal process for each renewing student.
When do I submit my completed application?
Application period begins

Go to ncseaa.edu for application!
What is priority selection?
**Priority Selection**

1. Renewal applicants

2. New applicants selected from Priority Selection Lottery

3. New applicants not selected in lottery

4. Any applicants who applied AFTER the March 1 deadline.
Priority selection deadline is March 1

Application due!
What happens if I miss the priority deadline?
You can still apply if you missed the deadline.

— **All** applications, new and renewing, are added to the waitlist in receipt order.

— Renewing students who apply after the priority deadline are **not guaranteed** a Scholarship.
How do I know if my application was accepted?
You’ve got mail!

Information about next steps and the Student Portal.
When does award selection begin?
Award selection begins in March:

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How is the school paid?
NCSEAA pays the school directly.

* You must sign via the electronic endorsement process before any payments can be sent.
Additional Information

- [www.ncseaa.edu](http://www.ncseaa.edu)
- [OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu](mailto:OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu)
- 1-855-330-3955 (toll-free)