K12 PROGRAMS: UPDATE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

News: Additional student awards for the Opportunity Scholarship Program
New Opportunity Scholarship award offers have been extended to families. SEAA sent notifications earlier this week. The deadline for families to accept the Scholarship offer is October 14, 2015. These students are now on Interested Applicants lists for you to see on the Nonpublic School Portal. Several questions families may ask are answered in the Frequently Asked Questions we have compiled specifically for these fall awards. Use this FAQ to answer questions about how to accept for spring semester only, how the waitlist works, and how families can correct information on their applications. Additional awards will be offered next week.

As explained in the most recent Update, completing the processes necessary for payment to schools will take some time. Note the order of activity:

Interested Applicants → Recipient Certification → Endorsement Forms → Disbursement

Schools can expect payment approximately 3 weeks after a properly completed endorsement form is submitted.

Quick Explanation: Endorsement Form errors
If your school discovers an error on an Endorsement Form, do not have the parent sign it. Instead, contact SEAA to correct the error and receive a new Endorsement Form. If you discover the error when you receive the payment, contact SEAA for directions. SEAA makes the Endorsement Form based on Recipient Certification, so as a reminder, make sure the tuition amounts you submit during Recipient Certification are accurate; correcting errors and resubmitting Endorsement Forms takes time and will delay your payments.

Quick Explanation regarding new awards: Kindergarteners and 1st graders
Families may ask you why older children in a sibling group are awarded an Opportunity Scholarship but younger students are not. According to the statute which governs the Opportunity Scholarship Program, no more than 35% of Opportunity Scholarship new student funding can be used for students entering either Kindergarten or first grade. Families can enroll these young students at their own expense if they choose, but should be aware of eligibility rules regarding any application for 2016-17. In addition, no priority can be given to siblings in the 2016-17 application process.

Reminder: Ineligible students
Students who were not 5 years old on or before August 31, 2015 are not eligible for the 2015-16 Opportunity Scholarship. Students who enter 2nd grade or higher are not eligible if they did not attend a North Carolina public school for the entire spring 2015 semester. Students from households with incomes above the Income Eligibility Guidelines for the Opportunity Scholarship Program are not eligible. Ineligible students will not be awarded a Scholarship, and will not appear on your Interested Applicants lists.

Opportunity Scholarship Program
Email: OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu
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K12 Phone: 1-855-330-3955

Children with Disabilities Grant Program
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