

***What is the documentation for the Disabilities Grant or Education Savings Account (ESA) Program?***

For first time applicants, parents must submit a current Eligibility Determination form (DEC3 or ECATS) from the student’s active Individualized Education Program (IEP). The forms must be from a North Carolina public school or a North Carolina Local Education Agency (LEA).

A first time applicant is a student for whom:

1. A program application has never been submitted, or
2. A program application was submitted but the student was not awarded, or
3. A program application was submitted, the student was awarded, but the student did not participate in the program. Therefore, funds were not expended on behalf of the student during school year prior to the semester for which the application is being submitted.

For renewing students, parents may submit a current Eligibility Determination form from the student’s active IEP. The forms must be from a North Carolina public school or a North Carolina LEA. Alternatively, parents may submit a Documentation of Continuing Eligibility form from a North Carolina Licensed Psychologist with a school psychology focus, or a North Carolina Licensed Psychiatrist.

A renewing student is a student for whom a program application was submitted, who was awarded, and for whom funds were expended during the school year prior to the semester for which the application is being submitted.

The Disabilities Grant and ESA programs are not interchangeable. Actions, participation, or requirements for one program may not solely substitute for the actions, participation, or requirements for the other.

***What does the DEC3 form look like?***

The DEC3 form starts with “Eligibility Determination” displayed across the top of the page and ends with a list of the IEP team names. At most, a DEC3 is 1-2 pages.



**Required Documentation of a Disability**

***New - North Carolina Public Schools Eligibility Determination Forms Implementation***

New statewide eligibility determination forms display an ECATS logo in the top left corner and Eligibility Determination as the title and ends with a list of the IEP team names. At most, the document is 2-3 pages.

Student:	Student UID#	DOB:
School:	Grade:	Age:

**ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION**

***What is the date requirement of the DEC3 or Eligibility Determination form?***

The date of the DEC3 or Eligibility Determination form must be within the last three years. See the table below for examples of when a DEC3 form must be dated for a particular academic year. If the document meets the date requirement, either format will be acceptable to determine a student’s program eligibility.

<b>Award for Academic Year</b>	<b>Meeting Date must be:</b>
2020-21	1/1/17 or later
2021-22	1/1/18 or later
2022-23	1/1/19 or later

***How do I track down the right documents?***

The Eligibility Determination Worksheets may be included with the form, but they are not used to determine a student’s program eligibility for the Disabilities Grant or ESA Program. If you are unable to locate the document, contact the public school or LEA to request a copy of the active IEP and DEC3 or Eligibility Determination form.

***Is a 504 Plan the same as an IEP?***

No. Eligibility for the Disabilities Grant or ESA Program requires an active North Carolina IEP, with the specific documents as described above.

***Nothing in this document should be construed to supersede the Program Statute, Program Rules or other Program polices. In addition, these policies do not represent an exhaustive list of all Program rules; rather these policies are set forth to provide a broad overview of the Program. See the Program Rules and Statutes on each Program’s website for more details.***

**Disabilities Grant**

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