

DISABILITIES GRANT PROGRAM POLICIES 2021-22

This document provides a broad overview of Disabilities Grant policies. The Disabilities Grant (DGrants) Program offers a parent several ways to receive funds, depending on the student's enrollment and on the types of expenses which the parent has incurred related to educating a child with a disability. The complexity of certain processes requires this policy explanation. More information can be found on the [DGrants website](#), and in the [Program Rules](#).

A parent who accepts an award offer for a student agrees to these policies.

Enrollment Requirements:

1. Only students enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade are eligible for the grant. The student must be at least 5 years old on August 31, 2021 but younger than 22.
2. Students cannot attend public school while also attending a nonpublic school during the semester for which the parent will seek grant funds.
3. Students who have been placed in a nonpublic school or facility, or an out-of-district public school by a public agency at public expense, cannot benefit from DGrants funds.
4. A parent may not seek reimbursement for tuition and fees if a nonpublic school participates in the Opportunity Scholarship or ESA Programs but declines to participate in the Disabilities Grant Program.
5. Schools which participate in the Disabilities Grant Program will receive a direct disbursement from the Disabilities Grant Program to the school on behalf of the student.
6. A student must attend an eligible nonpublic school for a full semester (defined as at least 75 school days) in order to qualify for reimbursement to the parent for Qualified Expenses incurred during that semester.
7. A student must receive special education instruction, provided at an eligible school or by a home school parent, on a daily basis in order to use DGrants funds for Qualified Expenses incurred during that semester.

Payment of Grant Funds:

1. The total maximum amount of the Disabilities Grant is \$4,000 per semester (\$8,000 per school year).
2. New students who are awarded for the 2021-22 school year will benefit from DGrants funds beginning with the fall 2021 semester. Parents cannot use 2021-22 funds to pay previously incurred expenses.
3. The Disabilities Grant Program disburses funds to participating nonpublic schools twice a year: at the beginning of each semester; approximately September and January. For funds disbursed directly to nonpublic schools, the parent does not need to submit documentation.

Reimbursement:

1. The Disabilities Grant Program reimburses parents for qualified expenses twice a year: at the end of each semester, approximately February for fall and July for spring. This reimbursement is based on receipts submitted by the parent.
2. [This document](#) explains what information receipts should contain. Receipts without required information will not be accepted for reimbursement. Prior to grant payments, SEAA will review and confirm that the submitted receipts support the reimbursement requested.

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3. DGrants funds will not pay for services that are paid by another entity.
4. [This document](#) explains Qualified Expenses. Parents cannot be reimbursed for expenses which do not align with the categories of expenses which qualify in the Disabilities Grant Program. There are rules about these types of expenses; review the linked document carefully, including the reference to technology purchases.
5. In order for funds to be disbursed to the school or reimbursed to the parent, a student must have current documentation of a disability in one of the formats required by the Disabilities Grant Program. See [this document](#) or [this document](#) for more information regarding this requirement, including the dates required for the document to be current.
6. Parents must submit documents (reimbursement documents or eligibility documents) in a timely manner to ensure their ability to make use of grant funds. For example, parents are not reimbursed for fall expenses during the spring semester reimbursement period.
7. Providers of services (tutoring, educational therapies) must register with the Disabilities Grant Program in order for the parent to be reimbursed for those expenses. [This document](#) explains the process of registering providers, and [this document](#) lists the providers already registered. Providers need only register one time.

Note that a second program, the Education Savings Account (ESA), also serves students with disabilities. The eligibility and payment processes are not the same as for DGrants. However, the Qualified Expenses and some other program aspects overlap. Parents of DGrants award recipients should not assume that what is true for the ESA is true for the Disabilities Grant Program, and should research carefully to understand the DGrants policies specifically.

When in doubt concerning the use of Disabilities Grant funds, parents are urged to contact the DGrants Program staff; contact information below.

The documents linked in these Acceptance Policies can also be found on the [DGrants website](#).

These policies do not represent an exhaustive list of all Disabilities Grant rules; rather these policies are set forth to provide a broad overview of the Disabilities Grant Program. See the [Program Rules](#) or the [Disabilities Grant website](#) for more details.

The Disabilities Grant Program is established by North Carolina General Statute 115C-112.5. It is administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA).

Contact Information:

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