ESA+

Transition from Disabilities Grant and ESA for the 2022-23 school year
Additional new students in all three programs were awarded in December with funding *for the current school year*.

Significant changes to the [*Opportunity Scholarship*](#), [*Disabilities Grant*](#), and [*ESA*](#) will be effective with the 2022-23 school year (with the application cycle starting in February/March).
Additional funding was allocated for both DGrants and ESA, for the 2021-2022 year.

Eligible students on applications received in the February – March 2021 application cycle, who were not already awarded, have been offered awards that begin with the spring 2022 semester.

*If these recently awarded students enroll / benefit from funding in spring 2022, they can renew for 2022-23 into ESA*.+
The Disabilities Grant and current ESA will merge and become one program:

Education Student Accounts (ESA+)
Advantages of ESA+

• One streamlined program for families of students with disabilities
• Same qualifying expenses as before
• Similar or increased award amounts
• No more out of pocket costs and waiting for reimbursement
• Additional funding allocated so more students can be served
AGENDA

1. Overview of ESA+
2. Part-time enrollment
3. Award amounts
4. Account limits
5. ClassWallet
6. Timelines: current year
7. Timelines: upcoming year
• SEAA will disburse funds for required tuition / fees to participating schools, by semester.

• Families can use ESA+ funds for educational therapies, tutoring, and technology. Home school families can also purchase curriculum.

• Funds other than for tuition and fees at schools will go to ClassWallet for the parents to access via an electronic account.
• Students who enroll in two private schools (each ½ time) can receive a full award.

• Students who enroll in home school and a private school can receive a full award.

• Students who enroll part-time in a public school and part-time in a participating school can receive a 1/2 award (1/2 the lower award amount regardless of the student’s disability).
Students renewing from DGrants and the (previous) ESA are considered renewals for 2022-23 for ESA+.

**Your students may need to document “Continuing Eligibility”:**

1. A review from a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist
OR
2. An updated evaluation / documentation of eligibility from the public school.
Current DG/ESA Programs:

• Your students are eligible for either the Disabilities Grant or the ESA, and in certain cases, for both awards simultaneously if you applied for both.

New ESA+ Program:

• Eligibility for the regular ESA+ award ($9,000), and the higher ESA+ award ($17,000), is consistent for the most part with the eligibility that previously governed awards from one or both previous programs simultaneously.
Schools which participate in ESA+ will receive a **direct disbursement from SEAA on behalf of the ESA+ student.**

- Schools certify in August (once per year)
- Schools and parents endorse (each semester)
- Payment to schools (each semester)

Schools registered with DNPE but who decline to participate in the K12 Programs may enroll ESA+ students.

- Parents will seek **reimbursement** for the cost of tuition and fees.
- **Parents of students at schools which participate in the Opportunity Scholarship may not be reimbursed for tuition and fees by the ESA+ Program.**
• Students who receive a $9,000 award may not accumulate any funds in the ESA+ account year over year.

For the transition year, current ESA students will renew into ESA+ with the existing funds that roll over. After 2022-2023, none of any remaining funds will roll over to the student’s account for 2023-24.

• Students who receive a $17,000 award may roll over a maximum of $4,500 per year. At no time, may students accumulate more than $30,000.

For the transition year, current ESA students will renew into ESA+ with the funds that roll over. At the end of 2022-2023, a maximum of $4,500 can roll over to 2023-24.
**ClassWallet is:**

- a separate company who partners with the NCSEAA.

- an online platform that hosts the **electronic debit account** on behalf of the ESA+ Program.

- where ESA+ families use remaining funds (after tuition has been disbursed to school) to:
  - make a payment to an **approved service provider**.
  - purchase products that are **ESA+ Qualified Expenses**.
1. Get an **invoice** from your provider at the time of service.
2. **Login** to ClassWallet.
3. Click “Pay Vendor”.
4. Search list for your approved provider and select vendor you would like to pay.
5. Upload invoice issued by provider.
6. Enter amount and expense category.
7. Submit for ESA staff to review.

• *Need detailed steps or a ClassWallet video tutorial? Click here.*
1. **Login** to ClassWallet.
2. Click on "Start Shopping" on the main screen.
3. Go to “View All Stores” and select a ClassWallet Marketplace vendor (ex. Amazon, Scholastic, Staples).
4. Select items (see [Qualified Expenses](#)) to purchase and check out.
5. Submit order for ESA staff to review.
6. Order processed once ESA staff approves it.

*Need detailed steps? Click [here](#)*
What happens after I submit my payment?

• NCSEAA staff review the transaction for approval.
  *staff review transactions in the order in which they were received*

• If approved by NCSEAA, the payment is processed.
  *ClassWallet processes the payment*

• Providers will receive the payment electronically to their bank account.
  *allow at least 3-5 business days*
DGrants reimbursement continues: we are currently reimbursing for fall 2021 expenses and we will reimburse in June for spring 2022 expenses.

• ESA will receive Q3 and Q4 payments.

Spring 2022 school payments:
  • DGrants: schools receive spring payments directly from SEAA.
  • ESA: parents transfer funds from ClassWallet to pay tuition and fees to their schools.
• Current students will renew beginning in late January or February.

• The new student application will open March 1 (priority deadline April 1).

• New payment process begins with the fall 2022 semester.

• Trainings, publicity, and a new ncseaa.edu page for ESA+ will be available later this winter and develop further in the spring and summer.
**Current DG**

- Reimbursement for fall 2021 expenses (now)
- Reimbursement for spring 2022 expenses (~June)
- Learn to manage your ClassWallet account before fall
- Plan to shop on ClassWallet this fall for curriculum, technology, etc.

**Current ESA, or both DG/ESA**

- Reimbursement for DG (see left)
- ESA accounts will roll over in ClassWallet (into ESA+)
- SEAA will explain payment changes to schools
- Current ESA-only: This August, your school will certify costs and you will endorse prior to payment to school (MyPortal action steps)
There is a webinar training on January 28 for prospective new ESA+ families. Recordings of today’s webinar and the January 28 webinar will be posted online.

We urge families to review online materials as they become available, and to be patient as we update documents and train staff and stakeholders.

Reminder: Families should contact the program staff with questions about eligibility and timelines.

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Monday- Thursday 8am-6pm
Friday- 8am-5pm