EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN NCSEAA K-12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

SECTION 8A.4.(a) G.S. 115C-562.1(3)a.3. reads as rewritten:
"3. Is eligible to enter kindergarten, first grade, or second grade pursuant to Article 25 of this Chapter. A child who is the age of 4 on or before April 16 is eligible to attend the following school year if the principal, or equivalent, of the school in which the child seeks to enroll finds that the student meets the requirements of G.S. 115C-364(d) established by the Authority pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.2(d) and those findings are submitted to the Authority with the child's application."

SECTION 8A.4.(b) G.S. 115C-562.2(d) reads as rewritten:
"(d) The Authority shall establish rules and regulations for the administration and awarding of scholarship grants and shall include a rule regarding the early admission of four-year-old children that establishes the same factors for eligibility as the rule adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-364(d). The Authority may include in those rules a lottery process for selection of scholarship grant recipients within the criteria established by this section."

SECTION 8A.4.(e) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with applications for scholarship grants for the 2023-2024 school year.

CHANGES TO NCSEAA'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SECTION 8A.5.(a) G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(2) reads as rewritten:
"(2) Provide to the Authority a criminal background check conducted for the staff member with the highest decision-making authority, as defined by the bylaws, articles of incorporation, or other governing document, to ensure that person has not been convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332. Information provided to the Authority in accordance with this subdivision is privileged information and is not a public record but is for the exclusive use of the Authority."

SECTION 8A.5.(b) G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(6) reads as rewritten:
"(6) Contract with a certified public accountant to perform a financial review, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, for each school year in which the school accepts 70 or more students receiving more than three hundred thousand dollars ($300,000) in scholarship grants or scholarship funds awarded under this Part by the Authority."

SECTION 8A.5.(c) G.S. 115C-562.5(d) reads as rewritten:
"(d) A nonpublic school accepting students receiving scholarship grants that fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be ineligible to receive future scholarship grants if
the Authority determines that the nonpublic school is not in compliance with the requirements of this section, the nonpublic school shall be ineligible to receive future scholarship funds. The nonpublic school shall notify the parent or guardian of any enrolled student receiving a scholarship grant that the nonpublic school is no longer eligible to receive future scholarship grants. The Authority shall establish by rule a process for a nonpublic school to appeal for reconsideration of eligibility after one year. To ensure compliance, the Board of Directors of the Authority shall review the criminal history provided under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to ensure that the person has not been convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332. The Board shall determine through this review whether the nonpublic school is noncompliant with this section. The Board shall make written findings with regard to how the criminal history information was used when making the compliance determination. The Board of Directors may delegate any of the duties in this subsection to the Executive Director of the Authority. As part of its review, the Board shall determine whether the results indicate that the staff member has any of the following disqualifying characteristics:

1. Poses a threat to the physical safety of students or personnel.
2. Demonstrates that he or she does not have the integrity or honesty to fulfill his or her duties in overseeing State funds and the requirements of the scholarship grant program.
3. Has not fully satisfied the criminal sentencing obligations imposed following his or her conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction."