



## ESA+ News You Can Use

Welcome to the ESA+ newsletter for families – your source for the latest news and important information about the ESA+ program!

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### Allowable Expenses: Providers

*This is the third in a series of articles that explores the different categories of allowable expenses.*

In previous newsletters, we've discussed the different types of allowable expenses families can pay for with ESA+ funds. This month we focus on the people and companies that provide services. We'll cover the registration process for providers, as well as how to find the current list of registered providers.

#### **What Are Providers?**

Authorized vendors for the ESA+ program are called "providers." Families can use their ESA+ funds to pay these providers for services, such as tutoring and educational therapy, as well as for curriculum [products](#).

#### **What is the Process to Become a Provider?**

Providers register with SEAA in order to document their credentials, so that they can be paid with ESA+ funds. During [registration](#), provider applicants submit their credentials and other required documentation to us. The registration review process may take several weeks once all documents are received. After ESA+ staff approve a provider, ClassWallet will contact the provider with onboarding information. Providers need to document their qualifications with the ESA+ Program just one time.

#### **How Are Providers Paid?**

Providers receive direct electronic payments from families through ClassWallet. This is the only way for providers to receive ESA+ funds.

### **Where Can I Find a Registered Provider?**

The ESA+ program maintains a [Searchable Database](#) of registered providers.

Is there a service or curriculum provider that you would like to have included in our database? Encourage them to register to become an official ESA+ provider!

## **Did You Know?**

Transportation is an allowable expense for the ESA+ program if funds are used for transportation to/from educational services or activities and provided by a qualified entity. Visit the [Search for a Provider portal](#) and enter the search term "transportation" to see a list of registered providers. A parent may not be reimbursed for gas or transportation expenses for their own student.

## **Tax Season**

SEAA is [required to report](#) to the IRS the amount of ESA+ funds spent on **non-tuition related expenses over \$600**. A parent who spends more than \$600 of ESA+ funds on any expense other than required tuition and fees at a registered school will receive a 1099 in January for the previous year.

*SEAA staff are not able to provide tax advice. Please consult your tax professional for guidance about your individual tax return.*

## **Resources and Upcoming Events**

*NOTE: Events and resources sponsored by organizations other than SEAA are listed as a courtesy to our ESA+ families. SEAA is not responsible for any representations or information provided to the public by non-affiliated organizations.*

March 15, 2023 -- [Sensory Friendly Playtime](#) at Marbles Kids Museum. This is a free event exclusively for kids with disabilities and their families to experience Marbles in a calmer, quieter environment. Activities include a "Lights Up, Sound Down Movie" of "Flight of the Butterflies 2D" at 5 p.m. in the IMAX Theater.

March 18, 2023 -- the North Carolina Down Syndrome Alliance (NCDSA) will host ["Paint the Zoo Yellow and Blue"](#) at the North Carolina Zoo to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. NCDSA will offer one free ticket for individuals with Down Syndrome and additional tickets for family members at a discounted rate. Tickets can be purchased through NCDSA or at the gate.

#PaintTheZooYellowAndBlue

**Are there topics you would like us to include in upcoming newsletters?**

**Let us know at: [ESA@ncseaa.edu](mailto:ESA@ncseaa.edu).**