



## 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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### Thinking About Summer Camp?

Families who have funds remaining after ESA+ has paid fall and spring tuition can use their ESA+ funds to pay for qualified summer camps! Homeschool families may have funds remaining after they have made purchases and paid providers.

There is no summer scholarship payment, so summer expenses must be paid from school year scholarship payments. You can sign on to your ClassWallet account to see your account balance and estimate the funds you expect to have remaining from the school year to use for summer expenses.

#### Important Dates

If you are planning to use funds for summer expenses, keep in mind that ESA+ shuts down ClassWallet from June 23 to July 5 to conduct fiscal year-end processes, so funds will not be available during that time.

Families have until **June 23** to use remaining funds from the current school year (families who are allowed to roll over funds may start using current year funds again when ClassWallet reopens on July 5).

Funds for the new school year (2023-24) will be available in late August/early September.

### Frequently Asked Questions - Summer Camp

**Can ESA+ funds be used to pay for any kind of summer camp?**

No. Many traditional summer camps are not a qualified expense. Camps must be therapeutic, academic, or designed specifically for students with special needs, and offered by an approved provider. To find camps offered by approved providers, visit the [Search for a Provider Database](#) on the ESA+ website and type “camp” in the search box.

**My child’s school offers summer camps. Why aren’t they included in the Provider Database?**

Schools that accept ESA+ funds are automatically approved as providers, so they will not appear in the Database. If you plan to use ESA+ funds to pay for a summer camp offered by your school, the camp must be therapeutic, academic, or designed specifically for students with special needs. Please contact the ESA+ program if you are unsure whether a camp is a qualified expense.

**Can ESA+ funds be used to pay in advance for summer camp?**

Yes.

**What if my student is unable to attend camp?**

Per the ESA+ parent agreement, refunds cannot go directly to parents. If you pay in advance for a camp and your student does not attend, the refund must be returned to the ESA+ program. Contact staff for assistance.

**Why don’t I see any funds remaining in my account?**

If a student’s ESA+ funds all go toward tuition, or if a parent with a home school spends the annual amount during the school year, there will not be funds left to use for summer expenses.

Camps must be therapeutic, academic, or designed specifically for students with special needs, and offered by an approved provider.

## 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.*

[Free family event](#) in Harnett County for Families of Exceptional Children! On March 24 from 5 - 8pm, PBS Kids will sponsor a sensory-filled evening at Highland Elementary School. There will be hands-on activities, crafts, games, and demonstrations, as well as special guests Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittykat.

The Eastern NC School for the Deaf (ENCSD) will host a [free summer program](#) for Eastern NC students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing June 12 - 23. Students must be Deaf/Hard of Hearing, school aged, and live in the 54 Eastern NC counties ENCSD serves. Applications are due March 31, 2023. The program includes field trips, STEM activities, sports, art and explorative play, life skills, and American Sign Language enrichment.

North Carolinians for Homeschool Education (NCHE) has a section of their website dedicated to [special needs homeschooling](#). It includes resources, frequently asked questions and support for families who homeschool children with special needs.

North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction has developed a "[Literacy at Home](#)" resource for Pre-K students. This digital resource provides literacy activities for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and includes activities to build phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and oral language.

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

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