ESA+ Scholarship Program
Information for School Administrators

North Carolina’s K12 Scholarship Programs
Helpful Hints for Zoom

*Slides will be posted at* [https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/school-administrators/webinars/](https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/school-administrators/webinars/) *and a recording of this session will be posted there within a week.*

- Zoom has **closed captioning** available

**Asking Questions**
- Use the Q & A to ask your questions (chat is disabled)
- Email [NPS@ncseaa.edu](mailto:NPS@ncseaa.edu) to ask questions about an individual student

**Answering Questions**
- Presentation team will answer questions from the Q & A at certain points
- Only questions related to this session’s content will be addressed live
1. Quick overview of ESA+
   - Parent steps & requirements
   - Funding amounts, timeline
2. Students with both ESA+ and Opportunity Scholarship awards
3. Part-Time Enrollment
4. Schools as Providers
Overview
Two Scholarship Programs

- **The Education Student Accounts (ESA+)** is a program for students with disabilities to attend a nonpublic school (home schools are eligible).

- **The Opportunity Scholarship** is an income-based program for students to attend a nonpublic school (home schools are not eligible).
Program Differences: School Choice Options

Opportunity Scholarship
The school choice must be a K12 Direct Payment School

ESA+
The school choice can be a K12 Direct Payment School or an ESA+ Reimbursement School or a home school

PART-TIME ENROLLMENT
Students who co-enroll in ... will receive...
- Two private schools: regular award Opportunity / ESA+
- Private school and public school: 50% of the award Opportunity / ESA+
- Private school and home school: regular award ESA+ only

Home School option is available for the ESA+ Program, but not for the Opportunity Scholarship Program
ESA+ Parent Steps and Requirements

Every Year:
All parents must sign and submit a Parent Agreement, a W9, and a Release of public school services.

Continuing Eligibility:
An ESA+ student must also be re-evaluated every three years. Continuing Eligibility can be done at no charge by the public school, or by a psychologist or psychiatrist. The nonpublic school cannot do the re-evaluation.
ESA+ Award Amounts

The main award level is $9,000 per year.

Students who meet the main eligibility criteria, and have one of the following designated as the primary or secondary disability on the IEP Eligibility Determination may be eligible for $17,000.

These areas of disability may qualify the student for the higher award amount. Terms listed as they appear on the Eligibility Determination.

- Autism
- Hearing Impairment, Deafness, Deaf-Blindness
- Intellectual Disability, Moderate or Severe
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Visual Impairment
Dual Awards
Awards are calculated per program. Funds disburse according to each scholarship’s award amount.

- OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS APPLIED FIRST
- EDUCATION STUDENT ACCOUNT (ESA+) FUNDS APPLIED SECOND
Disbursement: on behalf of students with both Opportunity and ESA+ awards

1. **Schools** will certify costs: once per student

2. **Schools** will endorse scholarship amount for each award
   (Opportunity and ESA+)

3. **Parents** will endorse scholarship amounts
   (Opportunity and ESA+)

4. **SEAA** will electronically disburse funds directly to schools
   on behalf of students
Part-Time Enrollment
ESA+ Enrollment

ESA+ students who co-enroll in ... will receive ...

- two private schools: *regular award*
- private school and home school: *regular award*
- Private or home school and public school: *50% of the award*

**Notes:**
- For students enrolled less than full-time, the school should know where the student is co-enrolled.
- Students enrolled in home school (full-time or part-time) cannot benefit from any *Opportunity Scholarship* funding.
Schools as Providers
Schools can serve as a provider of services.

For example, a school may offer after-school therapies or tutoring.

In these cases, the schools provide an invoice to the ESA+ parent, who can electronically transfer ESA+ funds to pay the school (provider).
Schools must provide an invoice to the parent which matches the amount the parent will be transferring to the school.

Schools should show a line item for the transaction fee on the invoice if that fee is charged back to the parent.

Parents (not schools) are responsible for uploading this document to ClassWallet. After the invoice is approved by SEAA’s ESA+ staff, the payment will transfer electronically to the school.

Schools will need to set up their bank account to receive the electronic funds transfer from ClassWallet.
Service Provider Invoice for Schools as Providers

- Name of school
- Student name
- Name of parent paying the expense
- What service the payment is for
- Dates of services
- Transaction fee as a line item, if charged to the parent

**Tip:** A parent cannot pay more than the invoice amount. Most often, the invoice amount will match the amount the parent will transfer.
The ESA+ electronic account structure includes a 2.5% transaction fee, similar to the fees for payments made by credit card.

- A school / provider that does not charge for credit card fees may not charge the ClassWallet transaction fee to ESA+ families.

- If schools / providers charge the transaction fee to ESA+ parents, parents can pay it with ESA+ funds. The provider should include the fee as a line item on the invoice so that the parent pays the exact amount required.
CONTACT US

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