



# ESA+ Scholarship Program Information for School Administrators

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North Carolina's K12 Scholarship Programs

# Helpful Hints for Zoom

*Slides will be posted at <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

# Agenda

## 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



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# Overview

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# 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





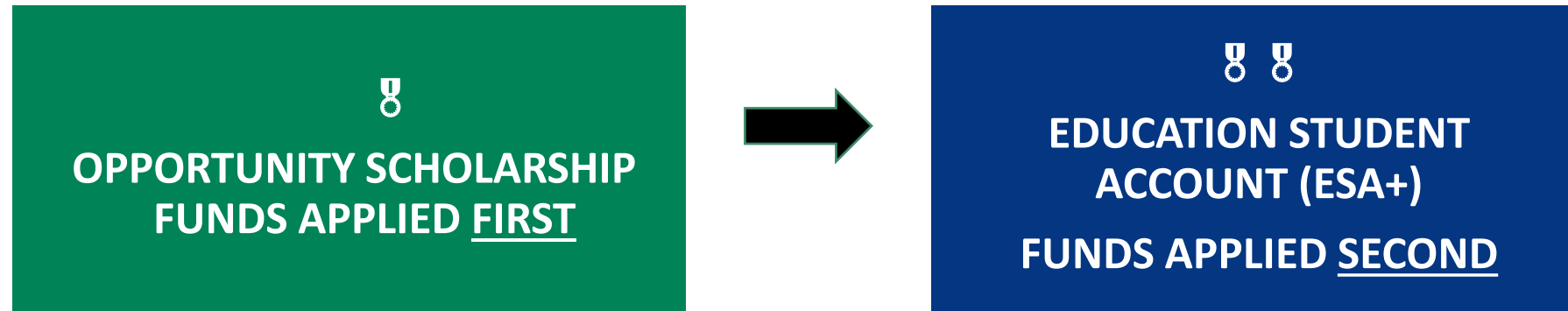
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# Dual Awards

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# Students with Both Scholarships

Awards are calculated per program. Funds disburse according to each scholarship's award amount.



# 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

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# Part-Time Enrollment

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# 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.

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# Schools as Providers

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# Schools as Providers of Services

- 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).



# ClassWallet for Schools as Providers of Services

**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.

# Service Provider Payment: 2.5% Fee

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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