Helpful Hints for Zoom

***Slides** are already posted at https://www.ncseaa.edu/esa-family-trainings/ 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 ESA@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

NCSEAA

Award Levels:

And How to Update the Area of Disability

North Carolina's ESA+ Scholarship Program

NCSEAA

Agenda

The ESA+ award levels depend on the areas of disability as documented on the public school Eligibility Determination, so we'll discuss that first.

1. Documentation of a Disability
2. Award Levels (and roll over policies)
3. Developmental Delay
4. Updating the Area of Disability
5. Where to find **help** with the public school evaluation process

NCSEAA

Documentation of Disability

Updating the Documentation of a Disability

Does your student need to update the documentation of a disability?

1. Find your student's current Eligibility Determination Form.
   For a description of the form, see our website. On the last page of the form there should be a list of people who attended the meeting, their signatures, and ***the date****.*
2. Find the date of the meeting in the "Date" column and add three to the year.
3. If the meeting date was 2020: ***2020 + 3 = 2023***

TIP: If your student's Eligibility Determination meeting date is 2020…

Start the process to update in the fall of 2023!

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Options for Renewing ESA+ students

NC Public School IEP Process

The only acceptable documentation of a disability for **new students**

Required in order to **update the area of disability** (in order to change the award level)

Required to update if student's **only area of disability is Developmental Delay**

Continuing Eligibility Form

An option for students who are already in the ESA+ Scholarship Program (& who do *not* need to update the area of disability)

Not an option for students whose only area of disability is Developmental Delay

More information? See the Continuing Eligibility webinar later in this series

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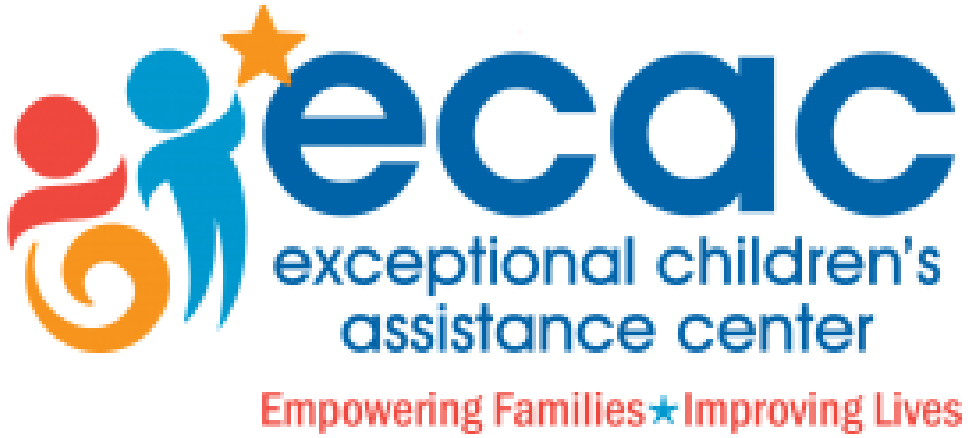
Exceptional Children's Assistance Center

Need Help?



ECAC is a resource for North Carolina families!

1. Who is ECAC?
2. Can you describe a high-level overview of reaching out to the public school for an updated evaluation?

https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/

Phone:

1-800-962-6817

NCSEAA

Award Levels

ESA+ Award Amounts

Base Amount: $9,000 per academic year.

- $4,500 disbursed in Fall
- $4,500 disbursed in Spring

Higher Amount: $17,000 per academic year

- $8,500 disbursed in Fall
- $8,500 disbursed in Spring

Disabilities are listed on Eligibility Determination Form

NCSEAA

ESA+ Higher Award

These areas of disability may qualify the student for the higher award amount of $17,000. Terms listed as they appear on the Eligibility Determination.

- Autism
- Hearing Impairment, Deafness, Deaf-Blindness
- Intellectual Disability, Moderate or Severe
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Visual Impairment

Program Eligibility Requirements

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Do ESA+ funds roll over to next school year?

- Students who receive a **$9,000 award** may not accumulate any funds in the ESA+ account year over year. Remaining funds *do not roll over* to the next year.

- Students who receive a **$17,000 award** *may roll over* a maximum of $4,500 from the current year remaining funds and *may roll over* previously accumulated funds.

  - The overall maximum account limit is $30,000.

Remaining ESA+ funds for *all* students roll over from *fall* semester to *spring* semester.

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Developmental Delay

Developmental Delay: *to update the documentation of a disability*

- Students with Developmental Delay as the only area of disability **must be re-evaluated by a North Carolina public school**
- Parents can request this evaluation without re-enrolling back in public school
- This updated documentation of a disability is due 3 years after the date on file.

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How to Update Area of Disability

Process & Timeline

1. Parent pursues public school re-evaluation process

Once the updated Eligibility Determination is in hand …

2. Parent emails ESA+ to ask for a link to upload document
3. Depending on the timing, a parent may have to wait to upload

ESA+ can only update the award level to the higher amount at certain points in the scholarship cycle.

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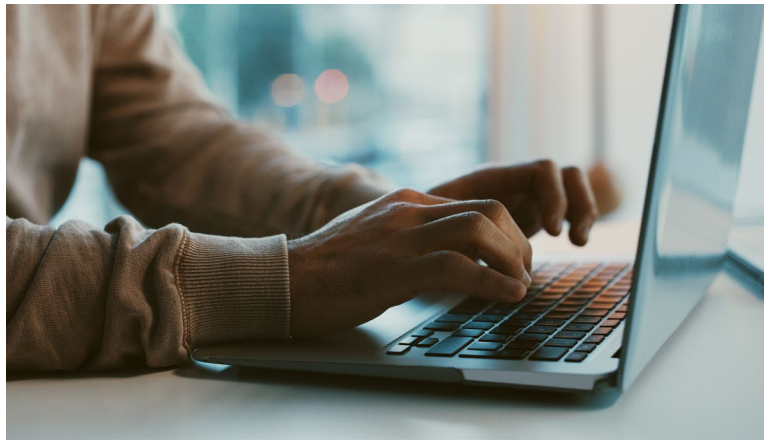
How to Upload a Document to MyPortal

1. Sign on to MyPortal.
2. Look for the To Do list.
3. Look for the task with the link: “Continuing Eligibility Information”.
4. Submit the document as **ONE Word or PDF file.**

Tip: Don’t email your document. Staff will only have to ask you to upload to MyPortal.



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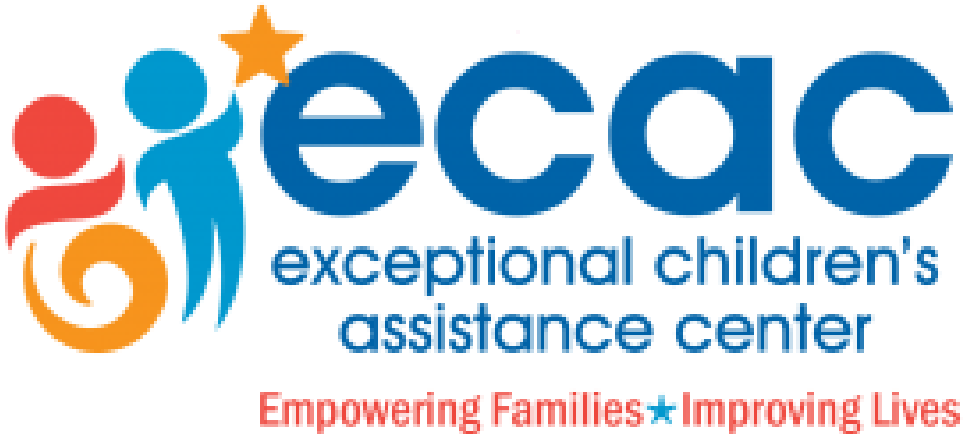
Exceptional Children's Assistance Center

Need Help?



https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/

Phone:

1-800-962-6817

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IMPORTANT ESA+ REMINDERS

Parents should check MyPortal **once a week:**

- Are there items on the To Do list?
- Look at Notifications. Maybe you've missed an email!

ESA+ students need updated documentation of a disability **every 3 years** (*3 years from the evaluation date on file*).

HOWEVER: Parents, you will renew **annually** so that the ESA+ staff know you want your student to continue next year.

ESA+ is **not a reimbursement** program.

- Very few exceptions (mainly the ESA+ Reimbursement Schools)
- Do not purchase items or pay for services with the intent to submit a receipt.

Public School? If a student will be in the public school, full-time, as normally assigned, then they are **not eligible for ESA+**.

- ESA+ is not permitted to provide funds to students who are enrolled in their regular public school (including charter schools).

NCSEAA

CONTACT US

ncseaa.edu

ESA@ncseaa.edu

1-855-330-3955

Monday-Thursday: 8am-6pm
Friday: 8am-5pm

Summer Training for ESA+ Families

https://www.ncseaa.edu/esa-family-trainings/

Enrollment Options, Updating the Area of Disability, ESA+ Reimbursement Schools, Purchasing Curriculum, Planning for Summer Expenses, Continuing Eligibility, and more …

Register to attend live sessions or view recordings at your convenience.

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