

North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

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!

Visit our Website

What can I pay for with ESA+ funds?

Allowable Expenses

Purchases must meet the requirements for ESA+ allowable expenses. See the <u>allowable expenses</u> section of the ESA+ website and the links provided below for additional information on each category.

- 1. Tuition and Fees
- 2. <u>Tutoring</u>
- 3. Educational Therapy
- 4. Curricula
- 5. Educational Technology
- 6. Transportation*
- 7. Textbooks**
- 8. Standardized Tests (home school students only)***

*Transportation to/from educational services or activities. Visit the <u>Search for a</u> <u>Provider portal</u> and enter the search term "transportation" to see a list of registered providers.

**Must be required by a nonpublic school and related to one of the following academic subjects: math, science, English/language arts, social studies, or foreign languages.

***Fees for nationally standardized tests

ClassWallet Tips

A purchase will be rejected on ClassWallet if it isn't an allowable expense (see article above). Other common reasons orders get rejected include:

- Multiple items submitted on one order: program staff can't approve individual items, so one unallowable item will cause the whole order to be rejected
- Provider of service was not registered with SEAA

You will receive an automated email from ClassWallet that explains why an order was rejected. If you still have questions, please email the program and include the order number and a description of the item. For additional information see the following resources:

ClassWallet Tip Sheet

Why Was My Order Rejected? Understanding ClassWallet

New Vendor on ClassWallet

<u>BJU Press</u> is now available to ESA+ families as a vendor on the ClassWallet marketplace. BJU offers textbooks and testing and evaluation products, such as IOWA Assessments and Stanford tests.

Providers with Questions

The program team cannot assist a parent who calls with questions on behalf of a provider. Providers with questions about the registration process should contact the program team.

Reminders



Home school families:

October 1st is the deadline for home school families to change their school choice from a home school to a direct payment school. Spring semester will be the next opportunity to make a change.

ESA+ school reimbursement families:

Families who attend ESA+ Reimbursement Schools should submit a tuition receipt at the end of the semester. ESA+ will email families when it's time to upload a receipt.

Families with a 2020 eligibility determination on file:

In mid-October, the Continuing Eligibility task will be added to records with a 2020 evaluation on file. The updated document is due by January 1, 2024.

All Families: The ESA+ scholarship may have tax implications for your family. Please see the <u>Tax Implications document</u> for more information. In mid-October, a W9 form task will be added to records that do not have one already on file in MyPortal.

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.

STAR Program accepting applications – The STAR Program is open to high school students (ages 14-22) with disabilities. The program offers Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) training, including job and career exploration, self-advocacy training, and workplace readiness training. Classes meet virtually for nine weeks. For more information see the program flyer and application.

Deaf Awareness Day at Western NC Nature Center– The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is hosting Deaf Awareness Day at Western Nature Center on Thursday, September 28, 2023 from 10:00am -3:00pm. American Sign Language interpreters will be provided. For more information, please see the program <u>flyer</u>.

Looking for a Previous Issue of the Newsletter? Newsletters are archived on our website under "<u>ESA+ Current Scholarship Families</u>."