

Renewal vs New Student: What's the difference?

In the ESA+ Scholarship Program, there is a difference between renewal and new applicants.

Keep in mind:

- ✓ Scholarships are offered *per student* based on eligibility requirements, not per household.
- ✓ Under the ESA+ & Opportunity Scholarship law(s), award offers are made to all eligible renewal student applicants before offers are made to eligible new student applicants.
- ✓ Review each program's eligibility requirements [HERE](#).
- ✓ Each year, to remain eligible for the scholarship funding, parents of renewal students must take action.

For ESA+, also keep mind:

- ✓ ESA+ requires that families of awarded students spend at least \$1,000.00 by the end of each school year.
- ✓ ESA+ families must provide a re-evaluation of their student's disability every three years. Options for submitting a new re-evaluation are [HERE](#).

Who is considered a RENEWAL?

- ✓ Student's documentation of a disability is current
- ✓ Renewal accepted by due date
- ✓ Spending requirement is met by the end of the school year

Who is not considered a RENEWAL?

- Student's documentation of a disability is not current: or,
- Renewal not accepted by due date; or,
- Spending requirement is not met by the end of the school year

Example #1: Eligible for RENEWAL

Renewal has been accepted for Student A, more than \$1,000.00 used during the 2023-2024 school year and the student's documentation of a disability on file is current. Student A is eligible as a renewal for the 2024-2025 school year.

Example #2 Not Eligible for RENEWEAL

Student A used more than \$1,000.00 during the 2023-2024 school year but Student A's documentation of a disability is not current. Although Student A accepted the renewal, he or she is not eligible to keep the renewal for the 2024-2025 school year.

If the parent plans for Student A to re-enter the ESA+ Program in a future year, Student A would be considered a new student at that time, not a renewal. Note that a new student must provide specific documentation of a disability to meet the new student eligibility requirements.

Who is considered a NEW STUDENT?

- Student who did not use awarded scholarship funding at all; or,
- Did not spend at least \$1,000,00 in the previous school year; or
- Did not accept renewal by due date

Note: If a year or more has passed since the last time using scholarship funding, the student is considered a new student applicant and must reapply.

Note: If a student was awarded funding but does not use funds in the year they were awarded (i.e., student returns to public school full time), that student is now considered a new student applicant and must reapply.