

The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) is the agency that administers the Opportunity Scholarship and ESA+ Programs on behalf of the State. We are available to help families and schools get the answers they need in a timely manner.

Additional funding for the Opportunity Scholarship and ESA+ Programs is now available.

During the first week of December, SEAA will begin awarding eligible students, not previously awarded, whose applications were received during the priority period (February 1 – March 1, 2024).

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) below for more information about the additional funding.

1. How do I find out if my student is on the waitlist and might receive an award?

SEAA K12 staff will contact families of eligible students who applied between February 1 and March 1, who have not previously received an award offer, via email in early December. Copies of all email notifications are visible in [MyPortal](#). Parents should monitor their email and MyPortal account.

Families who did not apply during the priority period of February 1 through March 1 will not receive an award.

Families of students who previously received an award offer, but who did not respond to the offer, or who did not meet a required deadline will not have that award reinstated.

2. How long will I have to respond to an award offer?

You will have three weeks from the official award notification.

3. My student is eligible and on the waitlist. Is there anything I can do to be ready for the scholarship award offer?

Yes.

1. Make sure you can login successfully to [MyPortal](#).

2. Ensure your email address is accurate and current (update in **My Contact Info & User Profile**).
3. Make sure your student's school choice is listed accurately; (email a school choice update, if needed, to OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu or ESA@ncseaa.edu).
4. Check the FAQs about eligibility in this document, and review program expectations and processes online (www.ncseaa.edu/k12).

4. Can I apply now?

No. The application period closed on March 1, 2024. If you did not submit an application during the February 1 – March 1 priority period this year, you can plan to apply in February 2025 for the 2025-26 school year. Families of prospective new students are invited to join a webinar in January 2025 to learn about the 2025-26 school year new student application cycle.

[Register here for the Opportunity Scholarship webinar](#)

[Register here for the ESA+ Scholarship webinar](#)

5. I signed up for the email notification list. Is that the same as the waitlist?

No. The email notification list was offered last spring in case the current year Opportunity Scholarship or ESA+ application needed to re-open over the summer. The 2024-25 application will not reopen. We are offering everyone assistance in January prior to the 2025-26 application cycle, and will invite families who signed up for the email notification list to attend the webinars listed above.

6. My student received an award offer last spring, but we missed a deadline that caused our award to be cancelled. Will my student be eligible for the additional funding?

No. Students who were previously offered an award, but had the award cancelled will not receive another award offer. Only eligible students from the February 1 – March 1 priority period, who were *not* awarded in spring 2024 for the 2024-25 school year, will receive an award offer.

7. When will students' scholarships be sent to schools?

Awarding is the first step in the scholarship disbursement process. **There are requirements that must be completed by both parents and schools before funding is disbursed.** These steps could take approximately six to eight weeks, so fall funds will likely be disbursed to schools in early January. Disbursements for spring semester funds will also begin in January.

8. Will the funding be retroactive and include payment for the fall 2024 semester?

That depends. There are certain limitations to retroactive fall 2024 funding.

Most newly awarded students who were attending an Eligible School on October 1, 2024, and remained continuously enrolled and attending that same school into the spring 2025 semester, will receive scholarship funds for the fall semester. Once these funds are disbursed to a school, the school must work directly with parents to reimburse any costs already paid that will now be covered by the scholarship. SEAA will provide guidance to schools.

Newly awarded students who were *not* attending an Eligible School by October 1, 2024, or who do not remain continuously enrolled in and attending an Eligible School into the spring 2025 semester will not receive funds for the fall semester. However, they may receive a single term award for spring semester, provided they enroll in and attend an Eligible School by March 1, 2025.

9. What is an Eligible School?

For the Opportunity Scholarship, an Eligible School is a school that accepts a direct payment on behalf of the student. See the list of [Direct Payment Schools](#). For ESA+, an Eligible School is a Direct Payment School, an ESA+ Reimbursement School, or a home school.

10. Will families with dual awards receive both Opportunity Scholarship and ESA+ for fall? ¹

It depends.

For those students who are already receiving ESA+, the new award funding from the Opportunity Scholarship will begin with the spring 2025 semester. If a student is waitlisted for both programs, and now awarded both, only new ESA+ funding will be disbursed for fall 2024. Both Opportunity and ESA+ awards will disburse for spring 2025.

For those students who are already receiving an Opportunity Scholarship, the new award funding from the ESA+ Program will be disbursed for both fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters.

11. If a student is currently attending public school, will they be able to use the award for fall?

No. Only students who were enrolled in and attending an Eligible School as of October 1st, and who remain continuously enrolled and attending that same school into the spring 2025 semester, are eligible to receive funds for the fall semester.

Parents of students currently in public school can choose for their student to enroll in an Eligible School and begin the 2024-25 scholarship with the spring 2025 semester.

¹ Please note the response to FAQ No. 10 has been revised from the prior version of the FAQ that was posted on November 21, 2024.

12. *What if a student is transferring to a different private school?*

Families with unique enrollment situations should reach out by phone or email to K12 staff. 855-330-3955 / OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu / ESA@ncseaa.edu

13. *If a student didn't enroll in an Eligible School this fall, could they use the award for spring?*

Yes. After you receive an award offer for your student, reach out by email to K12 staff OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu / ESA@ncseaa.edu. Ask to have the award converted to a single term (spring 2025). Your scholarship will begin in spring and can renew for the full 2025-26 school year.

14. *If a student doesn't enroll in an Eligible School this year, will they be considered a renewal when the application opens for 2025-26?*

No. If a student does not benefit from *any* scholarship funding in the 2024-25 school year, they will not be considered a renewal for 2025-26. Families of these students should apply via the new student application in February 2025, for the 2025-26 school year. See the "[Who is a Renewal?](#)" information on our website.

15. *What's involved in documenting residency?*

Students in both programs have to live in North Carolina, in the household of the parent of record. Families may be asked to document their residency. It's a quick and easy task to complete, and there is nothing you need to do in advance. See <https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/north-carolina-residency/>

16. *What's involved in verifying income?*

Households of some Opportunity Scholarship students will be selected for income verification. If you receive a notification that your household is selected, you will need to submit documentation. For more information about income verification, see <https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/opportunity/income-verification/>

17. Is there anything parents can do now to make sure their student's therapist or tutor can be paid with ESA+ funds this spring?

Providers must enroll with SEAA in order to document their credentials. This process can take several weeks. To avoid any delays, parents should review the [list of Enrolled Providers](#), and encourage their preferred therapists or tutors (if not already enrolled) to [complete the ESA+ Provider Enrollment](#).