

The North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship Program



The Opportunity Scholarship Program, passed in July 2013, provides annual scholarships of up to \$4,200 per year so low-income and working-class children have access to schools that best meet their educational needs.

For the 2017-2018 school year, the application period begins February 1, 2017 on the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority's website (ncseaa.edu) and parents will be notified of the first round of scholarships by the Authority starting around March 15, 2017.

How Do Opportunity Scholarships Work?

Low-income and working-class children whose families meet certain income guidelines are eligible to receive Opportunity Scholarships up to \$4,200 per student per year (\$2,100 per semester per student). Once a child has been awarded a scholarship, the family must be admitted to a qualifying private school and authorize the scholarship payment to their chosen school. The NCSEAA will then send scholarship funds to the appropriate private school.

Who Gets Priority to Receive a Scholarship?

- First priority will be given to eligible students who received a scholarship during the previous school year and reapply by March 1, 2017.
- New families who apply by March 1 will be considered in the first lottery.
- New families not receiving a scholarship in the lottery or applying after the March 1 deadline will be placed on a waitlist and awarded scholarships based on their number on the waitlist.

Who Qualifies For an Opportunity Scholarship?

To be eligible for a scholarship for the 2017-2018 school year, household income must not exceed 133% of the amount to qualify for free and reduced price lunch (about \$59,790 for a family of 4).

Income Eligibility for Opportunity Scholarships

\$4,200 Award Limit	Maximum Household Gross Income for 2016	
	To receive full tuition up to \$4,200	To receive 90% of tuition*
2	\$29,637	\$39,417
3	\$37,296	\$49,604
4	\$44,955	\$59,790
5	\$52,614	\$69,977
6	\$60,273	\$80,163
7	\$67,951	\$90,374
8	\$75,647	\$100,610

*The Opportunity Scholarship will be for 90% of the required tuition and fees or \$4,200, whichever is less.

Additionally, at least one of the criteria below must be met:

- Received this scholarship the previous year
- Student must have been enrolled in a North Carolina public school or a Department of Defense school in North Carolina for the entire Spring 2017 semester
- Is entering kindergarten or first grade
- Is a child in foster care
- Is a child whose adoption decree was entered no more than a year prior to applying for the scholarship
- Is a child with a parent on full time active duty status in the military

To see if your child may qualify for an Opportunity Scholarship, visit www.schoolchoicenc.org

You must officially apply through the state Authority at www.ncseaa.edu.

*Families whose income is between 101-133% free and reduced price lunch will receive 90% of tuition cost or \$4,200 (whichever is less).

Call Parents for Educational Freedom in NC (PEFNC) at 919-871-1084 for additional information or questions.