

Education Student Accounts (ESA+)

Understanding the ESA+

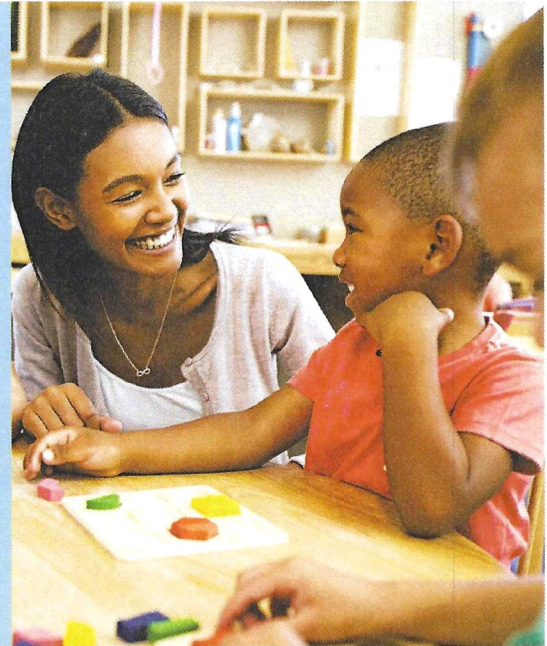
The Education Student Accounts (ESA+) program is for students with special needs. It provides families with the financial resources necessary to choose the school that meets the needs of their child.



HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Eligible students will receive a \$9,000 award and students with certain disabilities will receive \$17,000. This award can be used for the costs associated with educating a child with a disability, including tuition and/or qualified expenses.

The ESA+ program is intended for students seeking to enroll in an eligible (private or home) school, or to have the flexibility of co-enrolling in one of these AND public school. Students co-enrolled in public school will receive a reduced award.



To qualify, a student must:

- Be a child with a disability. Families must provide the Eligibility Determination Form from a North Carolina public school.
- A child must be at least age 4 by April 16 and entering kindergarten, per state guidelines.
- Be younger than 22 years old.
- Be a child residing in North Carolina.



***The application for the
2024-25 school year opens
February 1st, 2024.***

***Eligible students will be
awarded by lottery.***

The student is ineligible if:

- They do not have an Eligibility Determination Form from a NC public school.
- They have a high school diploma.
- They have spent any time enrolled as a full-time student taking at least 12 hours of academic credit at a postsecondary educational institution.

VISIT [EXCEPTIONALEDNC.ORG](https://exceptionalednc.org) AND A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM WILL HELP DETERMINE IF YOUR CHILD MAY QUALIFY!

Disabilities Grant and ESA Programs: What are Qualified Expenses?

The **Disabilities Grant (DGrants) Program** may reimburse families for qualified expenses related to educating a child with disabilities. The **Education Savings Account (ESA) Program** provides funds in an electronic debit account, also for families to pay for qualified expenses related to educating a child with disabilities. The purpose of this document is to explain qualified expenses (other than required tuition and fees at a participating nonpublic school) for both the DGrants and ESA Programs.

Textbooks

- Required by the participating nonpublic school

Tutoring and teaching services

- Provider registered with and approved by SEAA

Curricula

- Grade appropriate
- Supports an academic program
- Membership to online curriculum acceptable

Fees for nationally standardized tests

- Available for homeschool families with qualified receipt
- Not available for students enrolled in participating nonpublic schools

Fees for services provided by a public school

- ESA only
- Seek direction from SEAA *before* paying for services

Educational therapies

- Provider registered with and approved by SEAA
- Adaptive/therapeutic in nature or designed for students with special needs

Educational Technology is defined separately

Student transportation

- Provider registered with and approved by SEAA
- Transportation to and from educational services or activities

Excluded expenses:

- Consumable educational supplies like paper, markers, printer cartridges
- Household items
- Field trips
- Tickets to events
- Membership to organizations
- Out of state services
- Sports equipment
- Furnishings (e.g. a desk or chair)
- Musical instruments

Providers:

Providers of tutoring and teaching services, educational therapies, or transportation may not be a member of the student's immediate family or a member of the households of the student's Home School if the student is in a Home School.

Providers must register with and be approved by SEAA. SEAA will review the provider credentials to determine whether the provider holds a license that meets the requirements of the DGrants and ESA Programs, including accreditation by a State, regional or national organization that is acceptable to SEAA.