



Welcome! ESA+ 101

*How to manage your
student's scholarship*



Helpful Hints for Zoom

Slides & Recording will be posted here: <https://k12.ncseaa.edu/families-of-awarded-students/esaplus-program/resources/>

Zoom has closed captioning available.

Asking Questions:

- Use the Q & A to ask your questions (chat is disabled)
- Please do NOT provide confidential information during this Zoom session
- Email ESA@ncseaa.edu to ask questions about an individual student

Answering Questions:

- Presentation team will answer questions from the Q & A at the end to the extent time is available
- Only questions of general interest related to this session's content will be addressed live



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ESA+ Big Picture

Overview, Award Amounts,
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Allowable Expenses

Other than Tuition and Fees
at a Private School



We're starting today with a quick overview of 2025–26
Allowable Expense updates.

Renewal families are welcome to hop off the call or stay on. The webinar will continue with the key starting details new ESA+ families need.



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Allowable Expenses

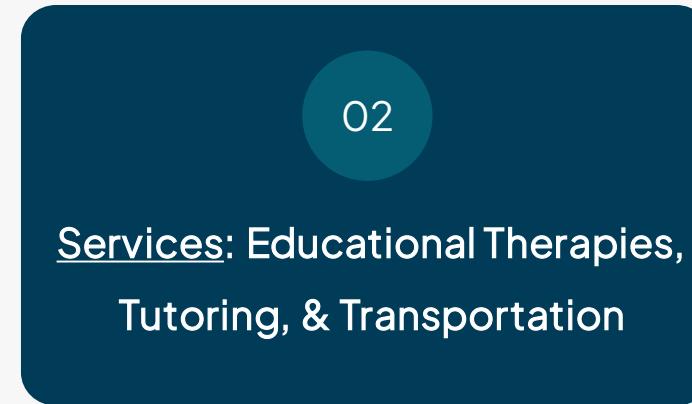


Allowable Expenses



01

Tuition and Fees



03

Products: Curriculum,
Technology, Testing
/Textbooks



More Detail about Services & Products

See the ESA+ website for links to explanations about WHICH expenses are allowable, and HOW parents pay for them.



What Can I Buy with ESA+ Funds?

You can buy three types of products and three types of services with ESA+ scholarship funds.

Products



Curriculum

+



Educational Technology

+



Testing Materials/Textbooks

+

Services



Tutoring

+



Educational Therapy

+



Transportation

+



Reminder about ...

Service Providers

How can I find a therapist or tutor that is already enrolled with ESA+?

SEAA maintains a list of providers who have already documented their credentials. Use the “Search for a Provider” tool on the ESA+ website.

What does a therapist or tutor need to do for me to pay for their services?

The law that governs the ESA+ Program requires that service providers have appropriate credentials. SEAA asks providers to submit a credential and sign a Provider Agreement.



ESA+ Program ▾

How Scholarship Funds Work
ClassWallet

Provider Search

Allowable Expenses ▾

Educational Technology
Educational Therapy
Tutoring
Curriculum

School Transfers ▾

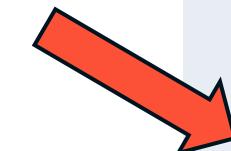
ESA+ School Options
Co-enrollment
School Categories

How to Renew ▾

Continuing Eligibility
Resources

Service Providers ▾

Enrollment



New & Planned Resources

Helping ESA+ Families with Allowable Expenses



Parent Guide to
Allowable Expenses



2025-2026 School Year



Resources in the Guide ...

Educational Therapy

Educational therapists must enroll with SEAA and hold a license or credential in their field to accept ESA+ funds.

Educational Therapy Examples

Type of Therapy	Credential Required
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	Behavior Analyst Certification Board
Art Therapy	Art Therapy Credentials Board
Behavioral Therapy, Counseling (Psychologist)	NC Board of Psychology
Behavioral Therapy, Counseling (Psychiatrist)	NC Medical Board

Curricula Examples

Product	Allowed	Not Allowed
Animals		
Live animals		X
An aquarium		X
Individual animal supplies included in an animal science curricula kit	X	
Books		
Chapter book "Big Nate in a Class by Himself" (for a student in 5 th grade)	X	
AP Chemistry textbook (for a student in 11 th grade)	X	
AP chemistry textbook (for a student in 1 st grade)*		X
Gardening		
Gardening, vermiculture, composting items		X
Gardening, vermiculture, composting items associated with a K12 science curriculum kit; includes lesson plans	X	
Globes/Microscopes/Devices		
Decorative globe		X
Educational globe	X	
Microscope	X	
Ambient Weather Station		X
Telescope	X	
Marine Biology & Computer Science		



Policy updates ...

What's new for 2025-26

- Robotics and coding products (p. 7)
- Robotics and coding tutoring / teaching services (p. 14)
- Sensory products (p. 9)





Materials Coming Soon ...

Dedicated **web info** for Home School families on www.k12.ncseaa.edu

Home ▶ Homeschool Families

Homeschooling with ESA+
Your Guide to Getting Started



Mini trainings for the **main categories** of Allowable Expenses (bite- sized info available on demand) via www.k12.ncseaa.edu

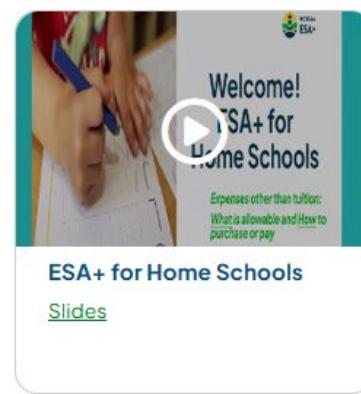
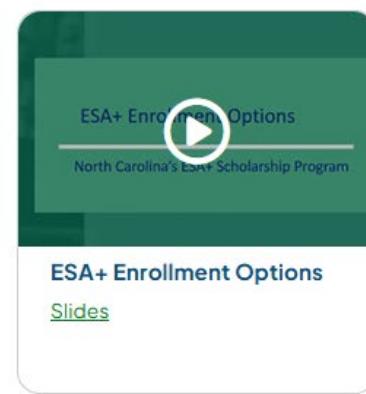
- **Curricula**
- **Educational Technology**
- **Educational Therapy**
- **Tutoring and Teaching Services**
- **Transportation**



Webinars to come ...

- Home School web pages: Launch (*mid-September*)
- Mid-semester check in (*submit questions in September, webinar in mid-October*)
- Planning for summer expenses (*January*)

Previous webinars AVAILABLE NOW:



01

ESA+ Big Picture

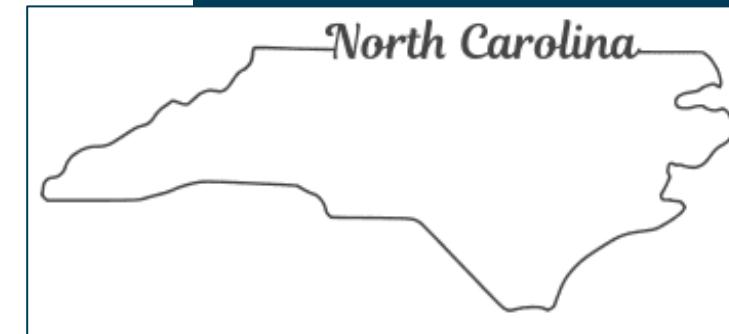




North Carolina Law & ESA+ Program Rules

- North Carolina lawmakers established the ESA+ Scholarship Program.
- Our state agency, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) is charged with administering ESA+.
- There are Rules which govern the operations of the ESA+ Program.
- The Education Student Accounts (ESA+) Program is funded by the State of North Carolina.

STATUTE and RULES:
<https://www.ncseaa.edu/psr/k12-programs/>





ESA+ Overview

ESA+ provides scholarships for expenses related to educating a child with a disability in a nonpublic (private or home) school.

Funds can be used for:

- Tuition and fees at eligible schools
- Therapeutic services (such as ABA or speech), tutoring, curriculum, and educational technology





ESA+ Award Amounts

The main award level is up to \$9,000 per year.

Students who meet the main eligibility criteria and have one of the following designated as the primary or secondary disability on the IEP Eligibility Determination may be eligible for up to \$17,000.

These areas of disability may qualify the student for the higher award amount.

Terms listed as they appear on the Eligibility Determination.

- Autism
- Hearing Impairment, Deafness, Deaf-Blindness
- Intellectual Disability, Moderate or Severe
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Visual Impairment



A quick word about ...

Documentation of a Disability

What should I do if my child's area of disability has changed?

Contact your local public school and request a re-evaluation. A full IEP is not required for this process; only the Eligibility Determination with the updated areas of disability.

When do I have to update my child's documentation?

To remain eligible for the ESA+ program, families must provide updated documentation of their child's disability every 3 years. If your student is new, note that the three-year cycle begins with the date of the IEP Eligibility Determination document.



Need Help?





Enrollment Options

1. Student enrolls in a private school.
 - a. School accepts a direct payment for tuition and fees (*most do this*)
 - b. School does not accept a direct payment (*parents are reimbursed for tuition and fees*)
2. Student enrolls in a home school.

There are part-time and co-enrollment options.



02

LEA Release





Another Form to Sign ...



- ESA+ parents will need to electronically sign a **Release of Public School Services**.
- Only parents of ESA+ students attending a nonpublic (private or home) school full-time will sign the LEA Release.

RELEASE OF LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME THE ESA+ RECIPIENT RECEIVES ESA+ SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

1. I am a Parent or guardian of a student who has been awarded a scholarship ("Scholarship"), consisting of State funds, from the Education Student Accounts for

03

Parent Responsibilities





What You are Agreeing to ...

Parents, You Must ...

- not give schools or providers your MyPortal or ClassWallet login credentials.
- spend funds only on behalf of the student who was awarded ESA+.
- notify SEAA immediately if you enroll your student in a public school full time.
- be prepared to submit documentation about expenses.
- return funds used for items or services that aren't allowable expenses.
- not request or accept a refund or rebate of ESA+ funds from a school, provider, or any other entity.
- allow your student to be tested (3rd grade and up; requirement excludes home school)





Misuse of Funds

SEAA has zero tolerance for misuse of ESA+ funds. Examples of misspent funds include:

- Using funds for anything other than Qualifying Education Expenses
- Using funds on behalf of someone other than the student awarded an ESA+ scholarship
- Using funds when the ESA+ student is enrolled full time in their regular public school
(*The MyPortal record must always accurately reflect the student's enrollment.*)

A parent who has made an error in spending should self report and notify SEAA immediately.

ESA@ncseaa.edu or (855) 330-3955



The MyPortal Parent

- “**Parent**” is defined in the ESA+ Parent Agreement.
- The parent of record must be a parent with whom the child lives.
- Only one parent can be listed in the MyPortal record.

Tip: Is the parent who primarily manages ESA+ business *not* the parent who is listed in MyPortal?

Email ESA+ and request to change the parent of record.

Email is the best way to request information about your student’s record. **BUT:**

Staff can only respond to the email address listed in MyPortal.

Tip: Need to update your email?

In MyPortal, go to My Contact Information.

04

Resources





www.k12.ncseaa.edu



[Home](#)

[Opportunity Scholarship](#)

[ESA+](#)

[About Us](#)



[Access MyPortal](#)



[School Administrators](#)

Explore K12 Scholarships

Welcome to the official home of the Opportunity Scholarship and the Education Student Accounts (ESA+) program, which North Carolina families can use to help pay for their children's education. Questions? We can help.





ESA+ Newsletter

The ESA+ newsletter is designed for families of current, awarded ESA+ students. Twice a month you'll receive all the latest news and announcements about the North Carolina ESA+ program.

Sign up here:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/HcTeUbZ/ESAContactList>



05

Accessing Funds





Paying for Tuition

(Parents whose students attend a home school do not pay for tuition.)

Direct Payment Schools

School provides cost info to SEAA.
(Certification)



School, then parent, approve payment
to the school electronically in MyPortal.
(Endorsement)



SEAA sends student's ESA+ funding to
the school.
(Disbursement)

ESA+ Reimbursement Schools

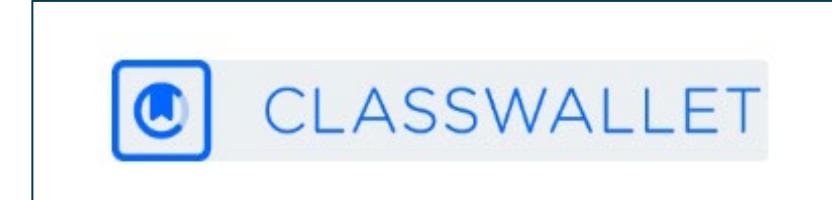
Schools are registered with the NC
Division of Non-Public Education
(DNPE) and do not accept a Direct
Payment.

Parents of ESA+ students pay tuition
up front and then submit for
reimbursement from SEAA.



ClassWallet is ...

- A separate company that contracts with SEAA
- An online platform that hosts the electronic account on behalf of the ESA+ Program
- Where ESA+ families use scholarship funds to:
 - Make a payment to a service provider
 - Purchase products that are allowable expenses
 - Submit receipts from an ESA+ Reimbursement School





Will You Use ClassWallet?

YES

NO

- Home school
- ESA+ Reimbursement School
- Direct Payment School (*if ESA+ funds remain after tuition and fees are paid*)

Direct Payment School
(*where the ESA+ funds pay tuition and fees with nothing left over*)





Contact Us



www.k12.ncseaa.edu



ESA@ncseaa.edu



855-330-3955

