



# 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](mailto: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



**01** **ESA+ Big Picture**  
Overview, Award Amounts,  
Enrollment Options

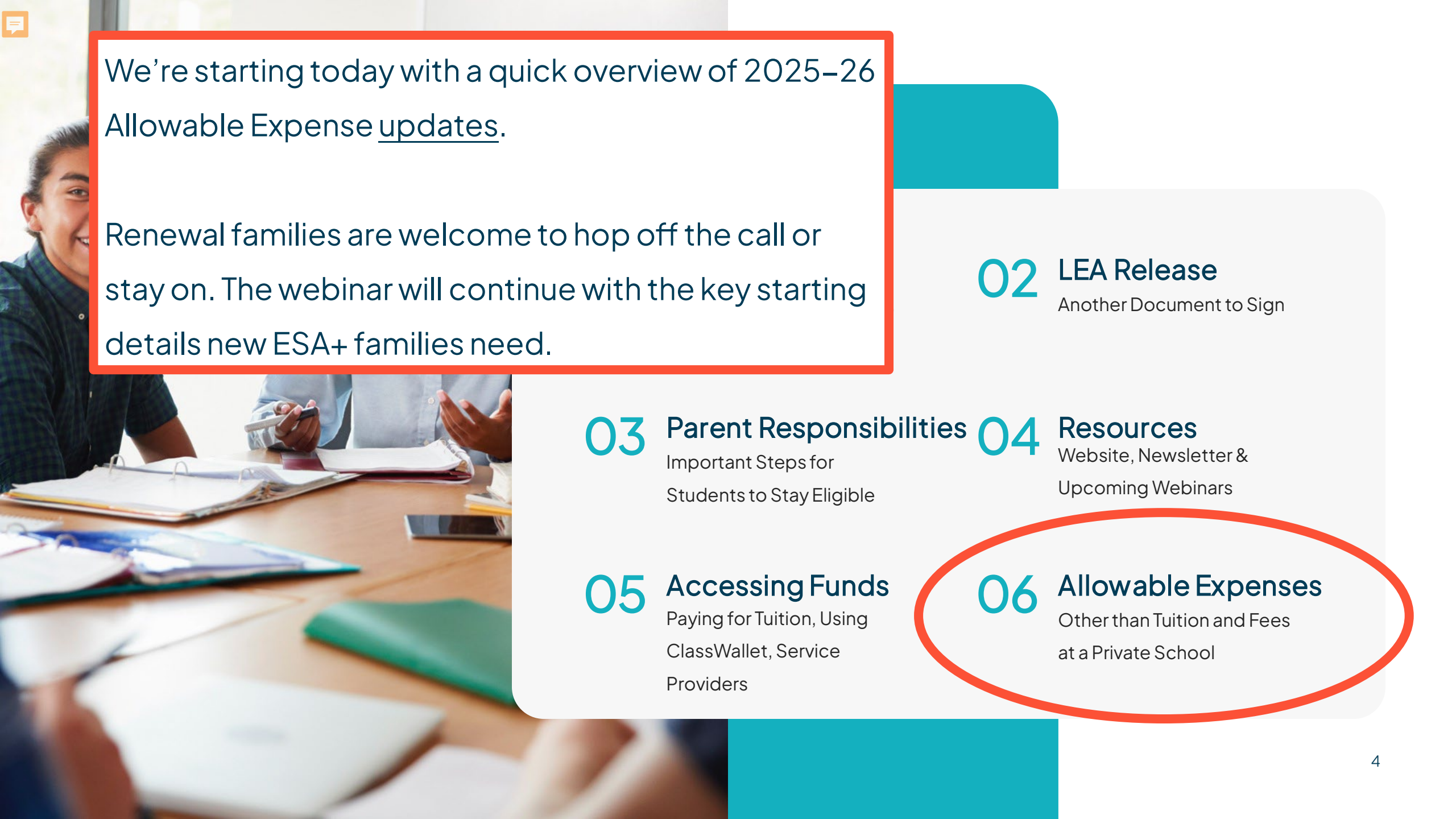
**02** **LEA Release**  
Another Document to Sign

**03** **Parent Responsibilities**  
Important Steps for  
Students to Stay Eligible

**04** **Resources**  
Website , Newsletter &  
Upcoming Webinars

**05** **Accessing Funds**  
Paying for Tuition, Using  
ClassWallet, Service  
Providers

**06** **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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**04 Resources**  
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# 06

## Allowable Expenses







# Allowable Expenses



02

Services: Educational Therapies,  
Tutoring, & Transportation



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 ...

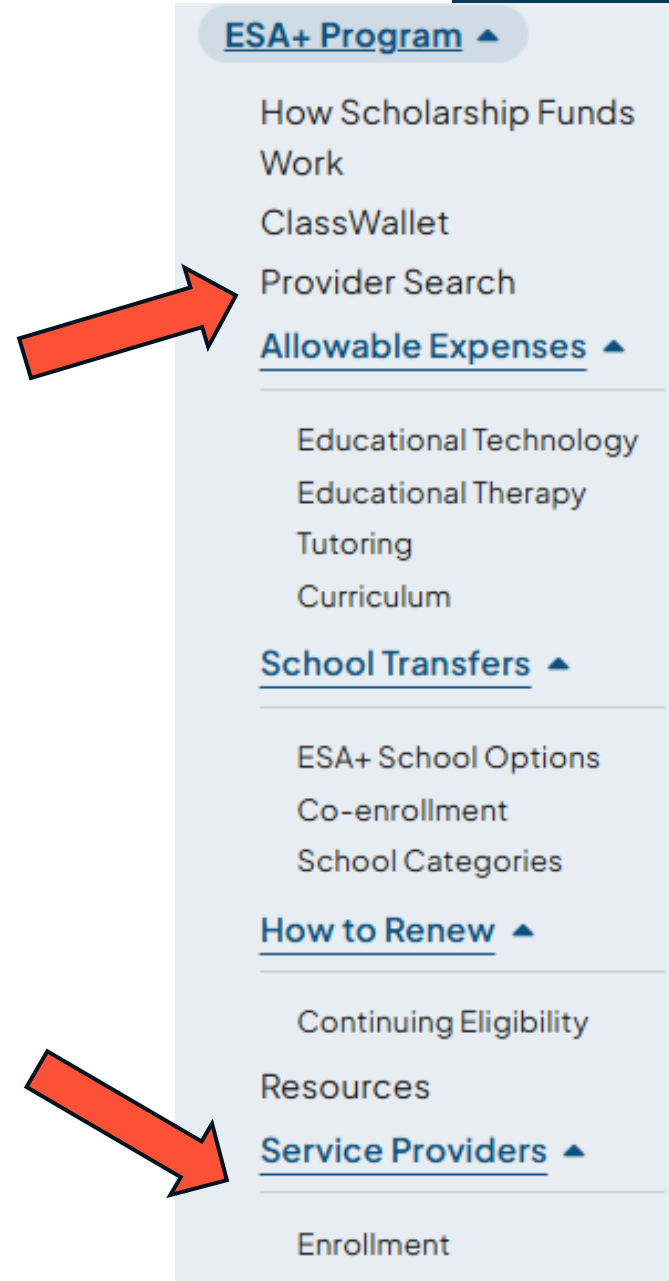
# Service Providers

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?

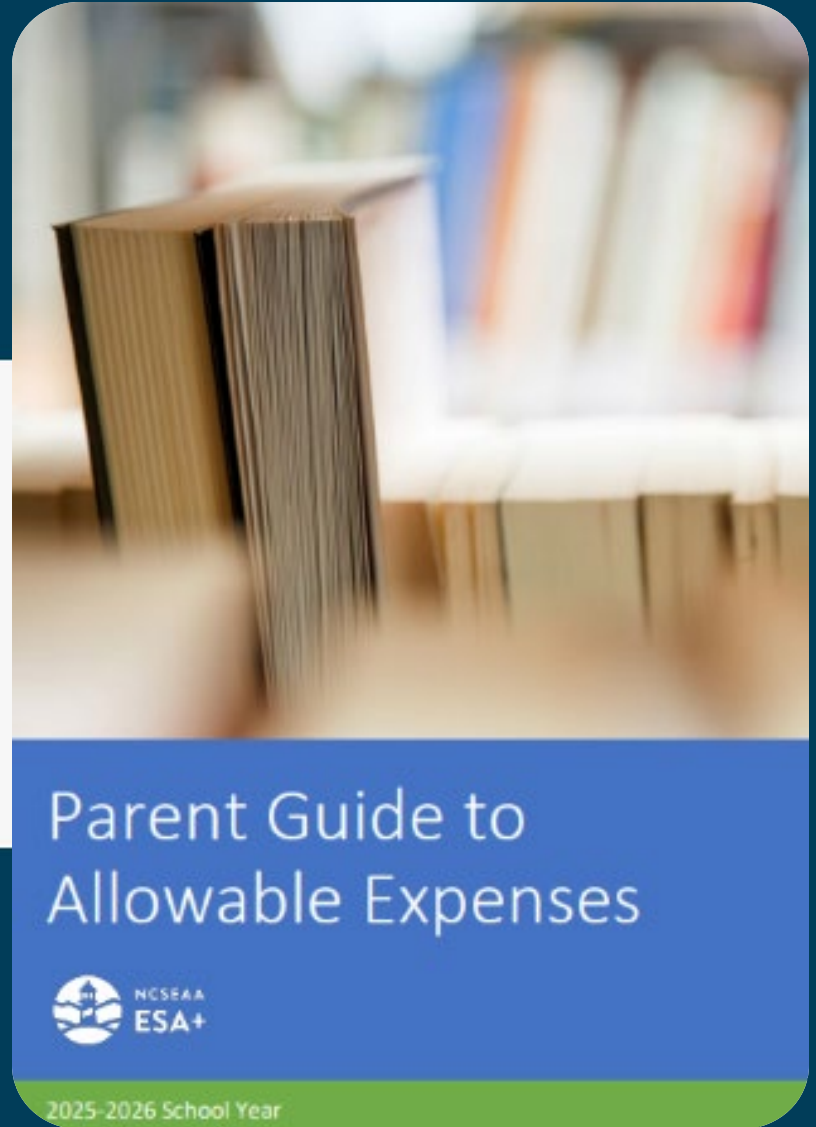
The law that governs the ESA+ Program requires that service providers have appropriate credentials. SEAA asks providers to submit a credential and sign a Provider Agreement.





# New & Planned Resources

*Helping ESA+ Families with Allowable Expenses*





# 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 |
|---|---------|-------------|
| <b>Animals</b>  |         |             |
| Live animals  |         | X           |
| An aquarium   |         | X           |
| Individual animal supplies included in an animal science curricula kit  | X       |             |
| <b>Books</b>  |         |             |
| Chapter book "Big Nate in a Class by Himself" (for a student in 5 <sup>th</sup> grade)                        | X       |             |
| AP Chemistry textbook (for a student in 11 <sup>th</sup> grade)   | X       |             |
| AP chemistry textbook (for a student in 1 <sup>st</sup> grade)*   |         | X           |
| <b>Gardening</b>  |         |             |
| Gardening, vermiculture, composting items   |         | X           |
| Gardening, vermiculture, composting items associated with a K12 science curriculum kit; includes lesson plans | X       |             |
| <b>Globes/Microscopes/Devices</b>   |         |             |
| Decorative globe  |         | X           |
| Educational globe   | X       |             |
| Microscope  | X       |             |
| Ambient Weather Station   |         | X           |
| Telescope   | X       |             |
| <b>Marine Biology &amp; Computer Science</b>  |         |             |

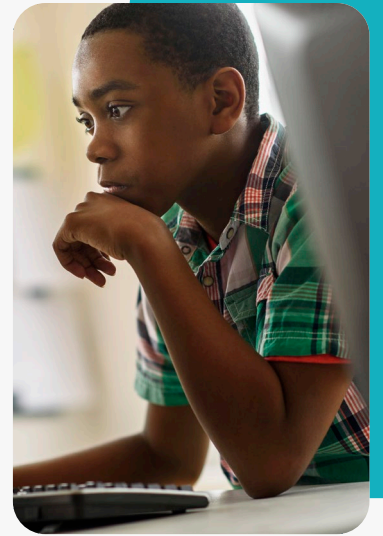




*Policy updates ...*

# 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](http://www.k12.ncseaa.edu)



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

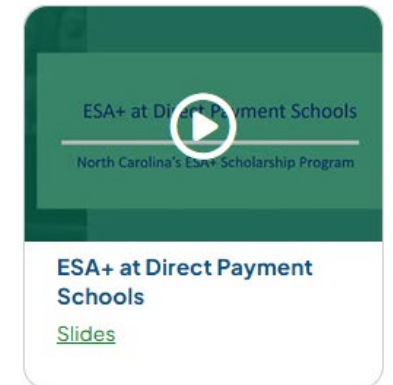
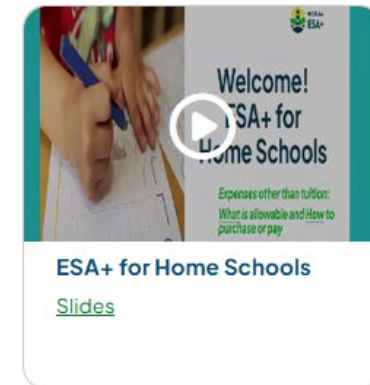
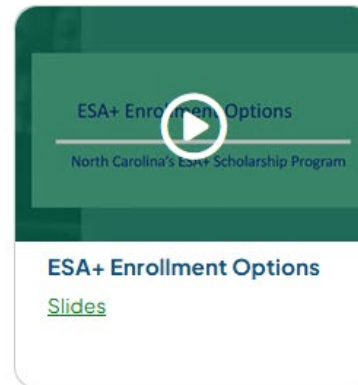
- **Curricula**
- **Educational Technology**
- **Educational Therapy**
- **Tutoring and Teaching Services**
- **Transportation**



# 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

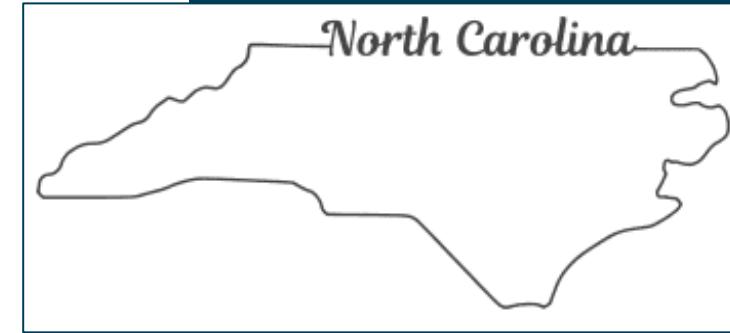
## ESA+ Big Picture





# 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



# 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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?

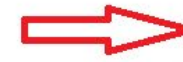
*In MyPortal, go to My Contact Information.*

# 04

## Resources



[www.k12.ncseaa.edu](http://www.k12.ncseaa.edu)



[Awards](#)

[School Administrators](#)

[Home](#)

[Opportunity Scholarship](#)

[ESA+](#)

[About Us](#)



[Access MyPortal](#)

# 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



CLASSWALLET





# 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](http://www.k12.ncseaa.edu)



[ESA@ncseaa.edu](mailto:ESA@ncseaa.edu)



855-330-3955



We'd love to  
hear from you!