

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 2019-20 school year, the application period begins February 1, 2019 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, 2019.



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).

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, 2019.

New families who apply by March 1 will be considered in the 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 a scholarship based on their number on the waitlist.

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.

Who Qualifies for an Opportunity Scholarship?

To be eligible for a scholarship for the 2019-20 school year, household income must not exceed 133% of the amount to qualify for free and reduced lunch

Income Eligibility for Opportunity Scholarships

\$4,200 Award Limit	Maximum Household Gross Income for 2018		
	# in Household	To receive full tuition up to \$4,200	To receive 90% of tuition*
	2	\$31,284	\$41,607
	3	\$39,461	\$52,482
	4	\$47,638	\$63,358
	5	\$55,815	\$74,233
	6	\$63,992	\$85,109
	7	\$72,169	\$95,984
	8	\$80,346	\$106,860
	9	\$88,523	\$117,735
	10	\$96,700	\$128,610
	11	\$104,877	\$139,486
	12	\$113,054	\$150,361

*Families whose income is between 101-133% free and reduced price lunch will receive 90% of tuition cost 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 prior 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
- Is a child with a parent on full time active duty status in the military