

# The North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship Program



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

*The application period begins on February 1 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 31.*

## 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. 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
- 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, household income must not exceed 133% of the amount to qualify for free and reduced price lunch (about \$61,759 for a family of 4).

## Income Eligibility for Opportunity Scholarships

\$4,200 Award Limit	Maximum Household Gross Income for 2017	
	To receive full tuition up to \$4,200	To receive 90% of tuition*
2	\$30,451	\$40,500
3	\$38,443	\$51,129
4	\$46,435	\$61,759
5	\$54,427	\$72,388
6	\$62,419	\$83,017
7	\$70,411	\$93,64
8	\$78,403	\$104,276

*\*The Opportunity Scholarship will be for 90% of the required tuition and fees for \$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 for the entire Spring 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

**For additional information or to apply, visit [www.ncseaa.edu](http://www.ncseaa.edu)**