

# 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.**

For the 2016-2017 school year, the application period began February 1, 2016 on the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority's website ([ncseaa.edu](http://ncseaa.edu)) and parents will be notified of the first round of scholarships by the Authority starting around March 15, 2016.

## 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, 2016
- 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, household income must not exceed 133% of the amount to qualify for free and reduced price lunch (about \$59,790 for a family of 4).

### Income Eligibility for Opportunity Scholarships

\$4,200 Award Limit	Maximum Household Gross Income for 2015	
	To receive full tuition up to \$4,200	To receive 90% of tuition*
2	\$29,637	\$39,417
3	\$37,296	\$49,604
4	\$44,955	\$59,790
5	\$52,614	\$69,977
6	\$60,273	\$80,163
7	\$67,951	\$90,374
8	\$75,647	\$100,610

\*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 2016 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

**To see if your child may qualify for an Opportunity Scholarship, visit [www.schoolchoicenc.org](http://www.schoolchoicenc.org)**

You must officially apply through the state Authority at [www.ncseaa.edu](http://www.ncseaa.edu).

\*Families whose income is between 101-133% free and reduced price lunch will receive 90% of tuition cost or \$4,200 (whichever is less).

**Call Parents for Educational Freedom in NC (PEFNC) at 919-871-1084 for additional information or questions.**