

Changes to the Opportunity Scholarship Program

House Bill 1105 (part of the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act), passed by the North Carolina General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper on September 4, 2020, changes certain eligibility requirements for the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

What Does This Mean?

1. Students in the following categories who applied for but did not receive an Opportunity Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year will be offered a full year Scholarship award **by September 25**:
 - All eligible kindergarten and 1st grade students included on applications received by August 31, 2020 who meet the current income guidelines and who were previously notified that they were excluded due to the limit on kindergarten and 1st grade new student awards.
 - Other eligible students on applications submitted by August 31 who meet the current income eligibility guidelines.
2. Income eligibility guidelines are being adjusted effective for the spring 2021 semester. These guidelines will be published **by September 25**. Note:
 - Students whose parents applied previously in the 2020-21 cycle but were not eligible specifically due to income may now be eligible for the spring 2021 semester.
 - Other eligible students on applications submitted after August 31, 2020 may also receive an award for the spring 2021 semester.
 - Awards for the spring 2021 semester offered to these eligible students by **December**.
3. There is still time to apply for the spring 2021 semester:
 - The Opportunity Scholarship application will close December 31, 2020.
 - The final spring semester awards for new students, assuming funding permits, will be offered in **January 2021**.

Next Steps

We know you have many questions, and K12 Program staff are working quickly to provide families with accurate information about program changes due to HB 1105. In the meantime, there are several steps you can take:

- There's still time to [apply for an Opportunity Scholarship](#) for the spring 2021 semester.
- If you previously applied and are now eligible due to the income eligibility changes outlined in Section 2:
 - You do not need to apply again. Your existing 2020-21 application will be reviewed again.
 - Make sure that your school of choice is accurate in your student's MyPortal record. If helpful, see the [list of participating nonpublic schools](#). Your student can only use an Opportunity Scholarship if attending a school that participates in the Opportunity Scholarship Program.
 - Receiving a grant or scholarship from NCSEAA does not guarantee admission to your school of choice. You still must follow your desired school's application process.