

The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) is a State agency that administers three State-funded programs (the Opportunity Scholarship, the Disabilities Grant, and the Education Savings Account, or ESA) to North Carolina (NC) families to expand school choice for their eligible students in kindergarten through 12th grade. This document lists the similarities and differences across the programs.

Similarities

- ▶ SEAA is charged with the administration of the Program, which includes managing the application and award process, ensuring that eligible schools meet program requirements, verifying student eligibility, and disbursing funds.
- ▶ Nonpublic schools must register with SEAA in order to participate in one or more of the programs.
- ▶ To qualify for any of the programs, a student must meet *all* of the following requirements:
 - Be a resident of NC
 - Be 5 on or before August 31 of the upcoming school year
 - Be younger than 22 as of the date the upcoming school year begins
 - Not have a high school diploma
 - Plan to apply to and enroll in an eligible school
 - Not have enrolled in a postsecondary institution (college or university) as a full-time student taking at least 12 hours of credit
- ▶ New student applications for all of the programs are available online at www.ncseaa.edu.

Differences

	Opportunity Scholarship	Disabilities Grant	ESA
Public School Enrollment Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student attended a NC public school or a NC Dept. of Defense school in the spring semester before the school year for which the family is applying, or ● Student will enter kindergarten or 1st grade, or ● Student has a parent on full-time active military duty, or ● Student is in foster care, or ● Student was adopted in the last year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student enrolled in a NC public school or a NC Dept. of Defense school in the spring semester before the school year for which the family is applying, or ● Student will enter kindergarten or 1st grade, or ● Student has a parent on full-time active military duty, or ● Student is in foster care, or ● Student was adopted in the last year, or ● Student has lived in NC the last six months regardless of previous public school enrollment status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student is eligible to attend public school in NC
Additional Required Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student must live in a household which meets Income Eligibility Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student requires special education, as documented on the Individualized Education Program (IEP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student requires special education, as documented on the Individualized Education Program (IEP)
School Choice Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nonpublic school, not including home schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nonpublic school, including home schools, or ● Public school for which tuition is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nonpublic school, including home schools
Part-time Public School &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Permitted if the nonpublic school that the student

These descriptions do not represent a complete list of the Opportunity Scholarship, Disabilities Grant, or the Education Savings Account Rules or policies. See the information posted online for full details.

	Opportunity Scholarship	Disabilities Grant	ESA
Nonpublic School Enrollment			attends part-time exclusively provides services for children with disabilities as identified by SEAA
Award is used for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and required fees at a participating nonpublic school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and required fees at a participating nonpublic school Qualified expenses related to educating a child with a disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and required fees at a participating nonpublic school Qualified expenses related to educating a child with a disability
Award Disbursement Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds are disbursed directly to the school for tuition & fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds are disbursed directly to the school for tuition & fees, and/or Parents are reimbursed for qualified expenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents access an electronic account with funds to be used for tuition & fees and/or qualified expenses
Award Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$4,200 per full-time nonpublic school student per school year Unused funds are not carried forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$8,000 per full-time nonpublic school student per school year Unused funds are not carried forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$9,000 per full-time nonpublic school student per school year \$4,500 per part-time nonpublic school student per school year Unused funds are carried forward provided the student continues to participate in the program and continues to meet the program's requirements
Application Timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority is given to students funded in the prior year The new student application opens each year on February 1 March 1 is the deadline for priority consideration New, eligible students are selected by a lottery system See program details for additional information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority is given to students funded in the prior year The new student application opens each year on February 1 March 15 is the deadline for priority consideration New, eligible students are selected by a lottery system New students are awarded in a priority order See program details for additional information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority is given to students funded in the prior year The new student application opens each year on February 1 March 1 is the deadline for priority consideration New, eligible students are selected by a lottery system See program details for additional information

✉ DGrants@ncseaa.edu

✉ OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu

✉ ESA@ncseaa.edu

🖱 www.ncseaa.edu

☎ 1-855-330-3955 (toll free)

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