

# Hope Scholarship Program FAQs

## **What is the Hope Scholarship Program?**

The Hope Scholarship will be an education savings account program that will allow parents and families to use the state portion of their child's education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them.

Passed by the Legislature during the 2021 Regular Legislative Session, the program is scheduled to begin with the Fall 2022 school year, with an application period to open by March 2022.

The State Treasurer's Office is currently developing this program in advance of its launch date.

## **Does my child qualify for the program?**

- The student is entering kindergarten for the first time in Fall of 2022.
- The student was enrolled full time in a public elementary or secondary school program in this state the previous school year.
- The student is enrolled full time and attending a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for at least 45 days during an instructional term at the time of application.
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## **Are students enrolled in a Catholic school currently eligible?**

If a student is currently enrolled in a private school or was enrolled full time in a private school the previous academic year, the student is not eligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program. However, the student could become eligible by enrolling full time and attending a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for at least 45 days at the time of application. (FYI: home school students are also not eligible under the same restrictions)

## **When will students currently enrolled in Catholic schools be eligible?**

If the participation rate of the combined number of students in the Hope Scholarship Program and students eligible who have applied to participate in the Hope Scholarship program in 2024 is less than five percent of net public school enrollment adjusted for state aid purposes for the previous school year, then, effective July 1, 2026, all students will be eligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program.

## **How much money could be received?**

Under the current School Aid Formula, each eligible student would receive \$4,600 annually. This number will vary from year to year depending on the School Aid Formula.

## **What can families spend the money on?**

- Tuition and fees for private school, non-public online programs, or alternative education programs
- Services provided by a public school (extracurricular, individual courses)
- Tutoring services
- Fees for standardized or advanced placement exams
- Fees for preparation courses
- Educational services and therapies
- Supplemental materials (supplies, textbooks)
- Transportation fees
- Any other qualified expense as approved by the Hope Scholarship Board

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**When can parents apply for the Hope Scholarship Program?**

Currently, there is not a date for when applications will be made available. However, applications will be made available no later than March 1, 2022. The Treasurer's Office will advertise the availability of applications at the appropriate time.

**How will Hope Scholarship money be distributed and spent?**

The Treasurer's Office will contract with a third party like ClassWallet to administer Hope Scholarship accounts electronically. Each family will have access to an account for each eligible student in their household. All purchases will be made via an ACH transaction and will be pre-approved by the Treasurer's Office.