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Education Scholarship Account (ESA)

Overview

The Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act enacted by the Mississippi Legislature during the 2015 Session created the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program (Senate Bill No. 2695). It is a program designed to give those parents with special needs children the option of withdrawing their child from the public school system and receiving a designated amount of funds to help defray the cost of private school tuition or other specific allowable activities to educate their child. The administration of this program has been designated to be performed by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE).

[ESA Recertification Form](#)

[Click here to download the ESA Application SY2017-18](#)

The MDE is charged in the law with the responsibility of developing a standard application to be used to assess the eligibility of each applicant. This application is available [here](#) and also in each school district so every interested person will have the opportunity to apply.

Parent Responsibilities

The parents must promise to agree to five items before being eligible for the ESA program. The parents applying for this program for their child will be required, as part of the application process, to initial and sign an agreement that lists these requirements. This will ensure that students are not selected to participate whose parents are not willing to agree to abide by these requirements set by the law.

Allowable Expenses

Once the recipients of the program are chosen, they will be mailed an award packet. This packet will include an award letter and reimbursement request instructions. Since the law is very precise on the exact uses allowed for the ESA funds, the OSE has established a list of allowable activities that is available [here](#) and will also be given to each recipient of the ESA program in their award packet.

Eligible School Duties

Included in the allowable uses of the ESA funds is tuition at an eligible school.

Mississippi Department of Education Duties

The law is very precise on the exact duties the MDE is required to perform. A list of these duties has been established and is available [here](#). They will also be included in the award packet provided to the selected recipients of the ESA program.

[MDE ESA Flyer](#)

[ESA FAQ 17-18](#)

[List of Nonpublic Schools Accredited by The State Board of Education](#)

This is an abbreviated list of nonpublic schools. If the school you select is not on this list, contact that school to verify its accrediting body and status.

[Reimbursement Form W-9](#)

[Supplier Registration Form](#)

MDE Hot Topics

- Jackson Public Schools Audit Report
- Charter Schools
- Early Learning Collaborative Act
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Graduation Ready Options
- Literacy-Based Promotion
- Mississippi College and Career ready Standards
- Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan
- Reading and State Standards Educator Resources
- State Board of Education Policy Manual

MDE News

School, District Report Cards for 2016-17 Released

Feb 06, 2018

Training Location for 2018 Summer Food Program Changed

Feb 05, 2018

MDE Releases School, District Data on Chronic Absenteeism

Feb 05, 2018

MDE Quick Links

- Report Fraud, Waste and Abuse
- Mississippi State Board of Education Members
- Professional Development Calendar
- Request Professional Development
- EdUpdate
- Family Guides to Student Success
- Mississippi School Superintendents
- Mississippi Board of Education Agenda
- Mississippi Exemplar Units and Lessons
- Mississippi Virtual Public School
- Mississippi E-Learning for Educators
- APA Notification Listserv Signup
- GoSignMeUp Registration
- State, District, and School Report Cards
- Legislative Reports

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