

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO

The Hope Scholarship

Applications open March 1, 2022. All application materials will be available on the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Website. This summary will provide with the necessary information from the recently approved Hope Scholarship Rules.

APPLICATIONS

Due Dates

- Applications for first-time applicants are due between March 1st and May 15th of each academic year.
- Re-enrollment applications are due between January 15th and May 15th of each academic year.
 - Students who become eligible for the program at any point outside the application window can still apply for the scholarship and receive a prorated deposit.
 - Late applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis from the Board.
 - Failure to reapply during re-enrollment window will result in the account being frozen and all funds being returned to the state at the conclusion of the academic year.

Application Materials

- Each student in a household must have a separate application.
- Applications are submitted to the Hope Scholarship Board.
 - The application will specify:
 - Who the account holder and student are
 - Associated contact information
- Applicants must provide the student's West Virginia Education Information System number and documentation to prove eligibility to enroll in the Hope Scholarship.
- Applicants must also submit an Account Holder Contract.

FUNDS AND DISBURSEMENT

- All transactions between account holders and education service providers will be conducted electronically
 - The method is still being developed and will be ready before the first deposit of funds into the accounts.
- Families can expect two deposits equal to roughly \$4,300 per academic year.
 - First Deposit is on August 15
 - Roughly \$2,150
 - Second Deposit is on January 15
 - Roughly \$2,150
 - Any funds not used during the academic year will be carried over to next year.

§112-18-8 PURCHASES AND REFUNDS

- The rules mandate that you can use the Hope Scholarship Funds for the following purposes:
 - Tuition and fees for:
 - Courses
 - Preparatory courses
 - Curriculum
 - Private and parochial school tuition
 - Courses at a public school
- Tutoring services, so long as the tutor is not a member of student's immediate family
- Fees for after school or summer activities.
- Transportation costs.
- Education therapies or services.
- Uniform Costs.
- Any other qualified expense approved by the Board.

All transactions will be conducted using an ACH transaction. You can view an exhaustive list of qualified expenses on Pages 8 and 9 of the rules.

ACCOUNT HOLDER REQUIREMENTS

- Account Holders must be one of the following:
 - Parent or guardian.
 - 18-year-old Hope Scholarship Student.
 - Account Holders can add a secondary account holder. However, only primary account holders are permitted to finalize purchases.
- Account Holder Contract Requirements:
 - To ensure that the Hope Scholarship student receives an education in at least the subjects of reading, language, mathematics, science, and social studies.
 - To only use Hope Funds for qualified expenses as listed in the rules.
 - To comply with the rules of the Hope Scholarship Program.
 - To afford students education enrichment opportunities in music, art, or literature.
 - To submit a standardized achievement test or certified teacher's review to the county superintendent if educating at home.
 - To authorize exchange of information and data between the Hope Scholarship Board and program manager to ensure eligibility for the program.
- Other requirements and prohibitions include:
 - Setting up the account with the Board prior to receiving funds.
 - The Board will work with applicants on how to do that.
- Ensuring that funds are not shared, rebated, or illicitly used.
- Keeping individual accounts separate in the event there is more than one Hope Scholarship student in a household

INFORMATION SOURCES

- *All definitions can be found on pages 1-3, Section §112-18-2, of the rules.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT ANDREW BAMBRICK

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