



Hope Scholarship 101

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What is the Hope Scholarship?

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What is the Hope Scholarship?

The West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program is the state's Education Savings Account (ESA) program that gives parents an opportunity to build an individual learning experience that works best for their child. The scholarship allows K-12 students to receive financial assistance that can be used for tuition, homeschool curriculum, and other qualifying expenses.

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What is the Hope Scholarship?

- A student participates in the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program instead of attending West Virginia public school full-time. The state funds that would have gone to the public school system to educate the student are placed into the ESA account for the parent to spend on the child's education.
- **The Hope Scholarship Program is NOT a supplemental educational program, so a child cannot remain in public school full-time and also participate in the program.**

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What are the two pathways under the Hope Scholarship?

Students participating in the Hope Scholarship fall under one of two pathways:

- **Participating Nonpublic School Student:** This is a student who attends a nonpublic/private school that is signed up to be a participating provider in the Hope Scholarship Program.
- **Individualized Instructional Plan (IIP) Student:** This is a student who will be educated using a customized educational experience that takes place at home or another location. Such students are NOT enrolled in a Hope Scholarship participating school. Students attending a microschool or learning pod are IIP students under the Hope Scholarship Program.

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How much is the Hope Scholarship each year?

- The Hope Scholarship amount will vary annually depending on the amount of state aid funding per pupil provided to county boards of education for public school students.
- The scholarship amount for the 2025-2026 school year is \$5,267.38 and the amount is expected to rise to \$5,435.62 for 2026-2027.

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Eligibility Requirements

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What are the statutory eligibility requirements for the Hope Scholarship Program?

A student is eligible for the Hope Scholarship Program if the student:

- Is a resident of the State of West Virginia;
- Has not successfully completed a secondary education program;
- Is under 21 years of age;

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What are the statutory eligibility requirements for the Hope Scholarship Program?

And meets one of the following:

- Eligible to be enrolled in a kindergarten program (i.e. must be 5 years old by July 1st).
- Enrolled in an elementary and secondary public school education program in WV for the entire instructional term during the academic year immediately preceding the academic year for which the student is applying to participate in Hope Scholarship.
- Be enrolled full-time and attending a West Virginia elementary or secondary public-school program for at least 45 consecutive calendar days during an instructional term at the time of application for the Hope Scholarship Program. The student must remain enrolled and attending public school until a decision is reached on the Hope Scholarship application.

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What are the statutory eligibility requirements for the Hope Scholarship Program?

Eligibility for the 2026-2027 school year has expanded to include any student eligible to be enrolled in a West Virginia public school in grades K-12. Existing traditional homeschool and private school students who have not previously been eligible for the program are eligible to begin participating in 2026-2027. Public school enrollment will no longer be an eligibility requirement.

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Common Eligibility Question:

What if my child doesn't turn 5 before July 1? Can he or she become eligible early?

The legislative rules for the Hope Scholarship Program contain a provision that if a student who does not meet the age requirements is admitted to a West Virginia public kindergarten program under the public kindergarten program's early admittance process, the student may become eligible for the Hope Scholarship Program.

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Common Eligibility Question:

What if my child isn't admitted to public kindergarten early and I start kindergarten early anyway? Can my child receive the Hope Scholarship for the following year when my child should have otherwise started kindergarten?

- If your child completes a private or homeschool kindergarten program in the year prior to meeting the age requirements for the Hope Scholarship, they would be considered first graders at the time of application instead of kindergarten students. Starting with the 2026-2027 school year, completing kindergarten a year early won't impact the student's eligibility for the program when they apply as a first grader.

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Common Eligibility Question:

Will my child have to requalify for the Hope Scholarship every year by returning to public school?

No, once your child qualifies for the Hope Scholarship Program, he or she remains eligible and can continue in the Program until they graduate from high school so long as the following requirements are met:

- Submission of a Continued Participation Confirmation (CPC) in the Hope Scholarship online portal annually to notify Board staff that the student wishes to remain in the Program.
- Submission of the required year-end annual academic reporting requirements to the county board of education.

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Application and NOI Process

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What are the application windows for the Hope Scholarship program?

- For NEW applicants, applications are accepted year-round, but the timing of submission of the original application for the program will determine the amount of the Hope Scholarship received for the student's initial year of participation in the program.
- For EXISTING Hope Scholarship students who wish to continue in the program, the Continued Participation Confirmation (CPC) must be submitted by June 15th annually.
- All new applications and CPCs are submitted directly in the Hope Scholarship online platform.

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What are the application windows for the Hope Scholarship program?

The NEW student application windows for 2026-2027 and the corresponding funding amounts are outlined in the chart below:

Application Window	Funding Amount
March 2 – June 15	100%
June 16 – September 15	75%
September 16 – November 30	50%
December 1 – February 28	25%
After February 28	Application is for the subsequent school year

Note: This chart only applies to NEW applicants, not existing participants.

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Common Application Question:

What happens if I miss submitting my child's CPC by the June 15th deadline?

- If you fail to submit your student's CPC by the June 15th deadline, your student will have to apply as a NEW applicant for a lower funding amount. With the expanded eligibility rules for 2026-2027, students will no longer have to return to public school to be eligible as a new applicant like they did in prior years.
- Students who fail to submit their CPC by the June 15th deadline will lose any carryover funds in their accounts.

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WVEIS ID# Requirement

- All Hope Scholarship applicants must have a WVEIS ID# assigned by the public school system to complete their Hope Scholarship application.
- If your child is currently attending public school, you should be able to locate their WVEIS ID# on their report card. It is also used as their lunch number or as a user ID for various computer programs, so your child may have it memorized.
- If you need a WVEIS ID# assigned for your existing private school student, traditional homeschool student or for an incoming kindergarten student or you are unsure of your child's WVEIS ID#, complete the [WVEIS ID Request Form](#) and email it to your local county board of education using the special email address created for such purposes. The county email address can be found in the [Hope County Board Email List](#) found at www.hopescholarshipwv.gov.


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WVEIS ID# Request Form



Hope Scholarship WVEIS ID# Request Form



• THIS IS NOT A HOPE SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE OF INTENT •

Students applying for the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program must have a valid West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS) ID# for the application process. If you do not know your student's WVEIS ID# or you do not believe your student has a number, please complete this form to obtain your student's WVEIS ID# in advance of submitting your student's Hope Scholarship application in the online portal. Completed forms should be submitted to the county board of education of your county of residence following the instructions at the bottom of the page.

This form contains the information needed to create a new WVEIS ID# if your student does not already have one in the WVEIS system and also contains a series of questions to help the county board of education of your county of residence determine if your student may already have an existing WVEIS ID# based on the student's previous interactions with a public school in West Virginia.

Basic Student Information

Student's Legal Name: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____
 Student's Race _____ Student's Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year) _____
 Student's Grade Level: Current _____ Next Year _____ Student's Sex/Gender _____
 Guardian's Legal Name _____ Guardian's Phone Number _____
 Guardian's Email Address _____ Current WV County of Residence _____
 Physical Address, City, State, Zip _____

Additional Questions to Help Determine if the Student Has an Existing WVEIS ID#

Has your student ever attended a West Virginia public school for any duration of time? This includes Pre-K programs located in a public school building as well as through collaborative partners such as HeadStart and participating childcare centers.

Yes No If yes, in what county did your child attend a West Virginia public school? _____

Has your student ever attended a West Virginia public charter school program? This includes brick-and-mortar charter schools and virtual charter schools, such as Virtual Preparatory Academy of WV or WV Virtual Academy?

Yes No If yes, what public charter school did your student attend? _____

Has your child ever received public school services, such as speech therapy, while attending a West Virginia nonpublic/private school?

Yes No If yes, what county board of education provided the services to your student? _____

Have you ever traditionally homeschooled your student in West Virginia?

Yes No If yes, what county board of education was sent your student's homeschool notice of intent and what was the approximate timeframe for the submission of the most recent traditional homeschool notice of intent? _____

By signing this document, I certify I am the legal guardian for the named student and that I have the legal authority to receive the WVEIS educational record for the student. My signature authorizes communication by electronic mail (email) to obtain my student's WVEIS ID# for the purpose of applying to the Hope Scholarship Program. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that affords legal guardians the right to have access to their children's education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records. The FERPA statute is found at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the FERPA regulations are found at 34 CFR Part 99.

Guardian's Legal Name Printed _____ Signature _____ Date _____

** Email the completed form to the applicable email address for your county of residence at the following link: hopescholarship@wv.gov or HopeScholarshipContent/Documents/Hope_Scholarship_County_Board_Email.pdf. The county board of education will process the form and return the WVEIS ID# for the student by email as quickly as possible; however, processing times will depend on the volume of requests.

For County Board of Education Use Only			
WVEIS ID#	New	Existing	Initial
			Date Received _____

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What is a Notice of Intent (NOI)?

- Statute requires that all Hope Scholarship students submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Superintendent of the county board of education of their county of residence to let them know that their student will be participating in the program.
- Your student's Hope Scholarship account will **NOT** be funded until your NOI has been recorded in the WVEIS system by the county board of education.
- A sample NOI for the Hope Scholarship Program can be found under Parent Forms on the Hope Scholarship website: www.hopescholarshipwv.com
- It is very important to use the correct NOI. Many families have mistakenly submitted traditional homeschool NOIs found from other resources, so the county board is unaware that the student is participating in Hope and does not record the student as a Hope student in WVEIS, causing funding delays for the student.

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Hope Scholarship Notice of Intent Page 1

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE OF INTENT

Date: _____
County Board of Education: _____

As required by West Virginia Code §18-8-1(m), this letter is to inform you that I intend for my child(ren) to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program authorized by West Virginia Code §18-31-1 et. seq. The following child(ren) will begin participation in the Hope Scholarship Program effective with the 20__ - 20__ school year and will continue in the program until you are notified otherwise.

School Year Effective	Student Name (First, Middle, and Last)	Date of Birth	Grade Level for Year Effective	WVVIS ID#	Please select one:
					Individualized Instructional Program (IIP)* or Participating School** (Do not leave this field blank)

*An Individualized Instructional Program (IIP) is a customized educational experience that takes place either at home or another location. Hope Scholarship Students with an IIP are not enrolled in a participating school. Students attending a microschool or learning pod are IIP students under the Hope Scholarship program.

**A Participating School is a non-public school that agrees to all the requirements to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program. The name of the specific non-public school is not required to be listed on the form.

The above children reside with me at the following address:

Street: _____
City & State: _____
Zip Code: _____
County of Residence: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Parent Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

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Hope Scholarship Notice of Intent Page 2

For my child(ren) participating in an individual instructional program under the Hope Scholarship Program, I will annually submit my child(ren)'s test results or determination that he or she is (they are) making academic progress commensurate with his or her (their) age and ability pursuant to West Virginia Code §18-31-8(a)(4). My child(ren) shall receive instruction in reading, language, mathematics, science, and social studies. I will notify you if our home address changes.

For my child(ren) enrolled in a participating school, the participating school is required to annually file a notice of enrollment pursuant to West Virginia Code §18-31-11(a)(6).

By signing this document, I certify that I am the legal custodial parent or legal guardian of each child named in this document and that I have the legal authority to direct the education of each child named in this document.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

FOR OPTIONAL USE BY TRADITIONAL HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS MOVING TO THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: *If this does not apply to your student(s), please leave blank.*

This serves as a Notice of Termination for traditional homeschooling under exemption (c) for the following students:

School Year Effective	Student Name	Date of Birth

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When do I submit my NOI to the county board of education?

- Students in all grade levels should submit their NOI to the county board of education **AFTER** their Hope Scholarship application has been found eligible.
- If your student is currently attending public school, submission of the Hope Scholarship NOI will serve as a notice to withdrawal your student from public school. It is very important to put the correct school year on the form, especially if you plan to finish the current school year in public school.

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Are there any special NOI rules for students attending a public charter school?

If your student is attending a public charter school, **AFTER** your child's Hope Scholarship application is found eligible, you will need to submit a copy of the Hope Scholarship NOI to **BOTH** the county board of education and the public charter school.

- *Submission to the county board of education of your county of residence satisfies the statutory requirement and lets the county know to record the NOI in the WVEIS system.*
- *Submission to the public charter school serves as a notice to the school that your child will be withdrawing from their school to participate in the Hope Scholarship program.*

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Common NOI Question:

Do I have to submit a new NOI to the county board of education annually?

- No, submission of your child's Hope Scholarship NOI to the county board of education is a one-time requirement. However, if any of the information on your child's NOI needs updated, such as your address, contact information, grade level, etc. you will need to submit a revised NOI to the county board of education.
- If you move to a new county of residence, you will need to send a Hope NOI to the new county of residence with a note that you are moving from the other county. You also need to notify the county in which you originally lived that your child will be moving and that your child will be tracked by the new county in the future. This allows both county boards to make the necessary changes in the WVEIS system to properly track your child's NOI and academic progress.
- If you leave the Program for any reason and then participate again at a later date, you must submit a new NOI to the county.

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Year-End Academic Reporting Requirements

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What are the year-end academic reporting requirements for Hope Scholarship students?

The annual year-end academic reporting requirements depends on which Hope Scholarship Pathway your student is utilizing.

- **Participating Nonpublic School Student:** The nonpublic school sends a list of all participating Hope Scholarship students from their school to the applicable county superintendent based on the county of residence for the student.
- **Individualized Instructional Plan (IIP) Student:** The parent/guardian has two options to satisfy the requirements:
 - Nationally normed standardized achievement test of academic achievement in accordance with W. Va. Code §18-31-8(a)(4)(A)
 - Certified Teacher conducts a review of the student's academic work annually

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When are the annual academic reporting requirements due each year?

Pursuant to the Hope Scholarship legislative rules, the year-end academic reporting requirements are due from parents/guardians and nonpublic schools on **June 8th annually**. It is recommended that families submit their academic reporting documentation using the special email addresses created by the WV Department of Education for each county board of education to accept such documentation. The County Board of Education Contact list can be found on the Hope Scholarship website under Parents/Students.

- *Note: The WV Department of Education is not required by statute to make the recorded academic progress available to the Hope Scholarship Board until July 1st annually. This gives the county boards of education a few weeks to record the academic progress submissions for all of the Hope Scholarship students. Keep in mind that some of the larger county boards of education will need to record data for several hundred students.*

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Common Academic Reporting Question:

If I choose the nationally normed academic achievement test option, what subjects must be tested?

Statute requires that your child be tested in the subjects of:

- Reading
- Language
- Mathematics
- Science - when available for the student's grade level
- Social Studies – when available for the student's grade level

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Common Academic Reporting Question:

Is there a specific form that must be used if a certified teacher conducts a review of my child's academic work?

- Hope Scholarship Board staff created a sample academic progress review form that is recommended. It can be found on the Hope Scholarship website under Parent/Student Forms.
- Certified teachers can use alternative forms so long as the form contains all of the necessary language to meet the statutory requirements. Please note that the statutory certification language is different for Hope IIP students than it is for traditional homeschool students, so a traditional homeschool portfolio review form may not be accepted by the county board of education for a Hope student.

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Account Closures due to Lack of Academic Progress Data

In early July each year, Hope Scholarship Board staff will review all Hope Scholarship students who participated in the program during the year to determine if the required academic progress information was recorded by the county board of education in WVEIS. For students who do not have academic progress data on file, Hope Scholarship Board staff will send a 45-day closeout letter via email to the family notifying them that their account will be closed at the end of the 45-day period if their academic progress data is still not on file with the county board of education.

Do NOT ignore this email if you receive one. Be sure to follow-up with both Hope Scholarship Board staff and your county board of education if you believe that you were sent the letter in error.

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Account Closures due to Lack of Academic Progress Data (Cont'd)

If your student's academic progress data is not on file, your student's account will remain in Conditionally Eligible status in the online platform until it is closed/expired at the end of the 45-day notice period. Accounts remaining in Conditionally Eligible status will NOT be funded with the August 15th first quarterly funding distribution.

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Funding and Qualified Expenses

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When are Hope Scholarship accounts funded each year?

- Scholarship funds are placed directly in the student's account/digital wallet in the online portal assuming the student's NOI is on file with the county board of education as required.
- Historically, accounts have been funded twice per year on August 15 and January 15. House Bill 5686 passed during the 2026 legislative session, moving the program to a quarterly funding model for student digital wallets on the dates of August 15, October 15, January 15 and April 15 annually.
- For students who are late complying with the NOI requirement or students awarded during the academic year for a lesser amount, the funds will be placed in the student's online portal account as soon as possible. Funding is processed by Board staff monthly.

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Common Funding Question:

If I don't spend all of my student's scholarship funds before the end of the year, will we lose the funds?

- Unspent Hope Scholarship funds will carry over to the subsequent school year so long as your student continues participation in the program and satisfies all academic reporting requirements.
- If your student's account is closed for any reason, any unspent balance will be returned to the State.

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How can I spend my child's Hope Scholarship funds?

Scholarship funds can only be spent on Qualifying Expenses as outlined in statute, legislative rule, and items authorized by the Hope Scholarship Board.

- A comprehensive list of qualifying expenses can be found in the Parent Handbook found on the Hope Scholarship website at www.hopescholarshipwv.com.
- A list of Nonqualifying/Unallowable expenses can also be found on the Hope Scholarship website on the Board of Directors page.

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How can I spend my child's Hope Scholarship funds?

- Hope Scholarship funds must be spent directly with participating Hope Scholarship schools, service providers, or suppliers directly through the online portal.
- The Hope Scholarship Board has approved a very limited parent/guardian reimbursement policy. **Just because an item is a qualifying expense for the Hope Scholarship Program does NOT mean that it is eligible for reimbursement.**

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Where can I find the Board's reimbursement policy?

The Board's reimbursement policy can be found on the Hope Scholarship website under both the Board of Directors and Parent/Students page at: [Hope Reimbursement Policy.pdf](#)

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Common Reimbursement Question:

Can I make purchases over the summer before my child's Hope Scholarship account is first funded and submit them for reimbursement in August?

- No, the Board's reimbursement policy clearly indicates that Board staff should deny reimbursement requests if the account holder "purchases the item prior to the Hope Scholarship funds being in the student's Hope Scholarship online platform account, even if the item would otherwise have been considered for approval."
- This would also apply to purchases made during the year if the purchase was made at a time when funds aren't available in the student's account, such as if a purchase is made in December but has depleted their first two rounds of quarterly funding and the account holder attempts to submit the reimbursement in late January after receiving the third quarter Hope Scholarship funds.
- **Rule of Thumb – You must have available Hope Scholarship funds in your student's account prior to making the purchase.**

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Common Qualified Expense/Funding Question:

Will the Hope Scholarship Program cover all of the costs/expenses for my child's education?

Not necessarily. To the extent that your child's education costs more than the Hope Scholarship amount, you will be responsible to pay for those excess costs out of pocket. In addition, not all items that you may want to purchase to educate your child are considered qualifying expenses under the Hope Scholarship Program even though you may argue that they have an educational benefit for your child. Just like public school students often have to make out of pocket purchases, there may be times where Hope Scholarship families will need to do the same.

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How can I spend my student's Hope Scholarship funds directly through the portal?

There are multiple ways to spend your child's Hope Scholarship funds in the online portal:

- Pay Tuition & Fees to a participating school or microschool.
- Order services through the closed marketplace.
- Order goods/commodities through the open TheoPay platform.

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What is TheoPay and how does it work?

TheoPay is the Hope Scholarship platform's open marketplace where families can shop for goods/commodities with various websites that have been "whitelisted" to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program.

To use TheoPay, you download a browser extension to use with your internet browser. When shopping from a whitelisted vendor website, first log into the TheoPay browser extension (which looks like a puzzle piece) before shopping and adding items to your shopping chart as normal. When ready to check-out, you use the TheoPay extension to click "scan cart" to check items for program eligibility. Review the results and remove ineligible items from the cart or provide a justification if you think the eligibility determination is erroneous. Once all items display as approved for the program or have a justification provided, you click the Submit button **but DO NOT check out on the website using your own payment mechanism.**

This submits your order to the Hope Scholarship fulfillment team who will review your order and place the actual order with the vendor to be shipped to your home/designated shipping address.

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Common TheoPay Question:

Can I be guaranteed sales prices or discounts when purchasing items through TheoPay?

- While the Hope fulfillment team strives to place orders as quickly as possible after submission, we are unable to guarantee that a sales price or discount will be available when your order is actually placed for fulfillment. This is especially true during peak times, such as right after the quarterly funding dates when thousands of Hope Scholarship families are placing orders at the same time. Also, since we are shopping for the items, we are not eligible for discounts that may apply to you directly, such as teacher or first responder discounts.
- If there is a significant price difference from the time you submitted your cart to the time the order will be fulfilled, the Hope Scholarship fulfillment team will contact you to make sure that you still want the item at the higher price.

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Common TheoPay Question:

Am I able to return items purchased using TheoPay?

- Yes, items purchased with TheoPay can generally be returned through a return process facilitated by the Hope Engagement Center.
- To submit a return request, you complete a [TheoPay Product Return Request Form](#) available on our website with the information about the needed return.
- The Hope Engagement Center will review the information, initiate the return with the vendor, and send you a shipping label once supplied by the vendor.
- All returns are subject to the specific vendor's return policy.

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Hope Scholarship Engagement Center

681-999-HOPE

help@hopescholarshipwv.com

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THANKS!

Contact us:

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West Virginia State Treasurer's Office
315 70th St. SE
Charleston, WV 25304

304.340.5058
hopescholarshipwv.com



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