



Hope Scholarship Eligible Expenses Decision Criteria

The purpose of this resource is to share with Hope Scholarship participants the decision criteria that Hope Scholarship Board staff uses when evaluating eligible expenses for Hope Scholarship funds. The criteria outlined in this document is for guidance only and is not intended to be comprehensive or definitive. The Hope Scholarship mission is to provide access to high-quality educational resources and services to meet an individual student's educational needs. Justifications for items are always welcome, and the Hope Board staff may request documentation to support a specialized request or need.

Criteria 1: Is this item educational in nature?

- Consider: Is this item essential to my student's educational success?

Criteria 2: Is this educational item for an individual student?

- Consider: Is this purchase only for my approved student whose name is listed on the account?

Criteria 3: Is this educational item age appropriate for your student?

- Consider: Is this item labeled as being within two grades above or one grade behind the grade level listed on my student's current application or is this marketed for an age group appropriate for my child?
- *Example*: An adult weight bench set found in most high schools is not age appropriate or marketed for first grade children.

Criteria 4: Is this educational purchase reasonable?

- Consider: Does my purchase contain reasonable quantities and is the pricing reasonable?
- *Example*: A request for 36 HP ink cartridges for \$1300 is not reasonable quantity or pricing.
- *Example*: A classroom size world map for \$700 is not reasonable for an individual student.

Criteria 5: Is this item already present on the non-qualifying expense list?

- Consider: Please familiarize yourself with the non-qualifying expense list. Something you may be interested in purchasing could have been reviewed by the Hope Scholarship Board and determined a non-qualifying expense. List available on the Hope Scholarship website www.hopescholarshipwv.gov.
- *Example*: Is this desk chair on the non-qualifying expense list? Household furniture such as desks, chairs, and bookcases are not permitted per the non-qualifying expense list.

Criteria 6: Is the parent/legal guardian of the student on the account receiving payment for services provided to their own student?

- Consider: Is the parent/legal guardian also a Hope Scholarship approved service provider? Parents/legal guardians must not receive Hope Scholarship funds to pay for services rendered to their own students or purchase items for themselves with student's scholarship funds.
- *Example*: Parent/legal guardian also owns a tutoring business. They must not invoice Hope for tutoring their own child.

Important Reminders to Parents/Guardians per Hope Scholarship Account Holder Agreement:

- Account Holder will neither share in nor permit the student to share in Hope Scholarship funds in any manner, as strictly prohibited by W. Va. Code § 18-31-7(c) and W. Va. Code of State Rules § 112-18-13.
- Account Holder is solely responsible for reviewing any and all qualifying expense list and/or non-qualifying expense lists before any purchase to ensure items being purchased are not prohibited.
- Account Holder is financially responsible for any approved purchases that are later determined to be ineligible and must pay back any funds to the Program for these ineligible purchases to maintain access to their Hope Account and/or maintain their eligibility for the Program.
- Account Holder must not resell items purchased with Hope Scholarship funds to other parties.
- Account Holder must not use items, including individual items, purchased with Hope Scholarship funds to operate any type of business or to build/make another item to be sold.