



Updated Parent Handbook



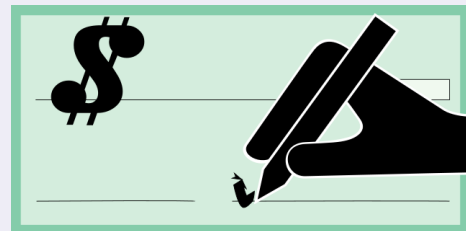
At the May 16 Hope Scholarship Board meeting, the Board voted to update the language related to assistive technology and equipment for students with disabilities to make it clear that the rental of such items is a qualified expense for Hope Scholarship purposes.

In addition, the Board made some additions to the two-year technology limit policy for cameras, camera accessories and for 3D scanners.

The Hope Scholarship Parent Handbook was updated to reflect these Board decisions. The new version of the Hope Scholarship Parent Handbook can be found [HERE](#).

Updated Reimbursement Policy

The Hope Scholarship Board also voted to update the Board's Reimbursement Policy to allow for the reimbursement of printing expenses paid to print digital curriculum. Reimbursement of printing expenses for digital curriculum requires submission of proof of the item(s) printed. When submitting the reimbursement request, please include additional documentation to show that the item printed was curriculum.



The Board's updated Reimbursement Policy can be found [HERE](#).

Updated Non-Qualifying Expense List

The Hope Scholarship Board considered the allowability of several qualified expense requests at the May 16 meeting. Their decisions included the following:

- The Board adopted an additional exception to the live animal prohibition to allow the purchase of tadpoles. However, subsequent to the meeting, Board staff learned that possession of tadpoles is prohibited by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. This update to the Non-Qualifying Expense list has been postponed until it can be reconsidered by the Board at a future meeting.
- The Board updated the current prohibition on all cameras to allow camera and camera accessories \$500 or below. As noted above, these items were also added to the Board's two-year technology limit policy.
- The Board updated the current language regarding greenhouses to instead be a more general category. The new language on the Non-Qualified Expense list is for "Gardening-related equipment, including but not limited to greenhouses and raised garden beds, in excess of \$200 per type of item."
- The Board affirmed staff's interpretation that honey extractors, cauldrons, and distillation equipment are a type of specialized kitchen equipment and therefore not an allowable expense.
- The Board affirmed staff's interpretation that ninja warrior-type courses are a type of playground equipment and therefore not an allowable expense.
- The Board affirmed staff's interpretation that witchcraft herbs are a type of food and therefore not an allowable expense.
- The Board added the following additional items to the Non-Qualifying Expense List:
 - Excessive quantities of allowable items
 - Fertilizer and chemical treatments, including but not limited to insect spray, Miracle Grow, fungus treatments, weed killer, etc.
 - Beekeeping suits in excess of \$200
 - Pet supplies
 - Livestock equipment, including but not limited to electric fencing
 - Shrubbery
 - Tents
 - Music albums
 - Bird feeders, including those with cameras, in excess of \$200
 - Tourmaline crystal towers
 - Two-way radios in excess of \$100
 - 3D Scanners in excess of \$500 (Note: 3D Scanners under this threshold were also added to the two-year technology limits as noted above)

The full updated Non-Qualifying Expense list can be found [HERE](#).

Important Academic Progress Q&A

Where do I submit my child's academic progress information?

Please submit your child's annual academic progress information by

What if my local county board of education is under state takeover?

If a county board of education is under State Board of Education takeover, the

email to the county board of education using the special email addresses created by the West Virginia Department of Education to help facilitate such submissions to the county. Use of the specific email address for your county of residence helps ensure that the information makes it to the correct person in the county. The same email address is used for traditional homeschool students, so please note in your email that your student is a Hope Scholarship student to help ensure that the county knows the correct place to record your child's academic progress in the WVEIS system.

submission process does not change.

Several individuals have contacted Hope Scholarship Board staff specifically about Nicholas County since the superintendent position was vacated because of the recent takeover by the State Board of Education. Because it is recommended that the academic progress data for Hope Scholarship students residing in Nicholas County be submitted to schoolchoice.nicholas@k12.wv.us, the vacant superintendent position will **not** impact your child's academic progress submission.

The list of email addresses for the county boards of education can be found [HERE](#).

New FAQs for Retention/Accelerated Advancement

A new section was added to the Hope Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website to address situations related to the retention of students or the accelerated advancement of students.

If your student needs to repeat a grade level or has made sufficient progress to skip a grade level, please review these new FAQs to ensure that you follow the correct procedural steps to facilitate the needed changes to your child's grade level in the Hope Scholarship online portal. Parents are unable to make changes to the grade level in the online portal – such changes must be made by Hope Scholarship Board staff.

The new FAQs can be found [HERE](#).

Important Upcoming Dates

- June 8, 2025: Year-end academic reporting due to the county board of education.
- June 15, 2025: Last day to submit Continued Participation Confirmations for 2025-2026. No late confirmations will be accepted after the deadline.
- June 15, 2025: Last day for new applicants to apply for 100% scholarship funding for 2025-2026.



- June 16, 2025: First day of the 75% funding window for new applications for 2025-2026.
- July 31, 2025: Recommended last day for new Hope participants to submit their NOI for the 2025-2026 school year to ensure no issues with first semester funding. Earlier submission is strongly encouraged.
- August 15, 2025: First semester funding date for the 2025-2026 school year.



West Virginia State Treasurer's Office | 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E | Charleston, WV 25305 US

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