



## A Message from State Treasurer Larry Pack

Happy New Year from the State Treasurer's Office! It is an honor and a blessing to serve as your 26th State Treasurer and Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board.

Earlier this month, I was sworn-in to office by Gov. Jim Justice. My top priority is to be an active Chief Financial Officer for the state of West Virginia. We need to protect the state's finances and invest in school choice options that best meet the needs of your children.

My Office will work diligently to ensure the expansion of Hope Scholarship Program eligibility to all school-age children in West Virginia beginning in the fall of 2026 is a success. This will be a monumental leap forward for educational freedom, allowing tens of thousands of additional families to access the program.

Program participation has grown rapidly since the program began, growing from 2,333 students in 2022-2023 to 5,443 students in 2023-2024 to over 10,600 students currently participating in 2025-2026. This growth is attributed, in part, to the additional flexibility allowed with the Board's year-round application options for interested families.

My Office announced earlier this month that Continuing Participation Confirmations (CPCs) are now available for current Hope Scholarship students wishing to continue participation in the program during the 2025-2026 school year. I am encouraging participating families to submit their CPCs as soon as possible.

I want to thank each of you for your participation in the Hope Scholarship. This is the second full year of operations for the program. My staff is looking forward to another successful year as we work diligently to operate the program and welcome new students!

Sincerely,  
Larry Pack



# Continued Participation Confirmations for 2025-2026 Now Open

Continued Participation Confirmations (CPC) for 2025-2026 opened on January 3, 2025, and will be open through June 15, 2025. If your **existing** Hope Scholarship student wishes to continue participation in the program for next school year, please be sure to complete the CPC by the June 15, 2025, deadline. Late CPCs will not be accepted!

As a reminder, when your CPC has been reviewed and your residency has been verified, the status for the CPC will change to Conditionally Eligible pending submission of the required 2024-2025 academic progress information to your student's county board of education by June 8, 2025. The status will be updated to Approved in July once confirmation of academic progress has been verified by Board staff.

As a reminder, **new** student applications for 2025-2026 will not open until March 1, 2025. If you have any issues with completion of your CPC, please contact the Hope Engagement Center at [help@hopescholarshipwv.com](mailto:help@hopescholarshipwv.com) or 681-999-HOPE.

Please see the [press release](#) regarding CPCs for more details.

## 2024-25 Application Deadline: Feb. 28, 2025



Eligible students have until February 28, 2025, to apply for the Hope Scholarship Program to receive 25% of the scholarship amount for the 2024-25 school year. One of the three eligibility pathways must be met for eligible students to be considered for participation. If your student is completing the 45-day requirement for eligibility and this requirement is **not** met by February 28th, 2025, the application must be submitted for the 2025-26 school year.

As a reminder, a Hope Scholarship Notice of Intent must be on file before initial funding will be released for your approved student. A sample Hope Scholarship Notice of Intent can be found [here](#) with corresponding county board of education contact emails located [here](#).

Please ensure you submit your Notice of Intent to the county board of education of your county of residence, even if they attended public school in another county.

If you are completing the 45-day pathway by attending a public charter school, you must also submit a copy of your NOI to the charter school to help facilitate your withdrawal from public school.

# Second Semester Funding



Second semester funding will be available in students accounts on January 15, 2025. For students approved for the scholarship after January 15, funding will be available in the student's account as soon as feasible on the monthly funding cycle. As a reminder, your student's Notice of Intent must be on file with the county board of education in order for your account to be funded.

If your Hope student attends a participating nonpublic school or microschool, be sure to click on the My School tab on your account dashboard to pay your second semester tuition and fees once your account is funded.

## Qualifying Expense Update

The Hope Scholarship Board met on December 9, 2024, and considered several Qualifying Expense requests, resulting in several changes.

The Qualifying Expense List found in [The Hope Scholarship Parent Handbook](#) was updated to include Individual Library Membership Fees. The Individual Library Fees were also added to the Board's [Reimbursement Policy](#).

The Board's [Nonqualifying Expense List](#) also had several updates:

- The following additional unallowable items were added to the list:
- Greenhouses in excess of \$200
- Composters in excess of \$150
- An exception was added for Insect Kits to the live animal prohibition, paving the way for butterfly gardens, ant farms, etc. to be purchased with Hope Scholarship funds.
- An exception was added for kinetic sand to the prohibition on toys, making kinetic sand eligible for all Hope Scholarship students.

The Board also voted to interpret horse rental fees to be considered part of the cost of horseback riding lessons, which have already been approved as qualifying expenses. The Board also voted not to place a limitation on the cost of athletic equipment unless program staff have a reasonable suspicion that the purchase will be used for someone other than the Hope Scholarship student for which the equipment is being purchased. Further, requests for flight simulation equipment will be considered on a case-by-case basis by Board staff.

## TheoPay Updates

The Hope Scholarship Program is excited to announce the following TheoPay Updates:

### LEGO® Education Orders

The initial issues and delays with placing orders at LEGO® Education have been fully resolved. Families can now easily purchase educational LEGO products for their students by visiting the official [LEGO® Education site](#).

### Staples Advantage

Hope Scholarship families shopping at Staples will now access a custom Staples Advantage

website built specifically for the Hope Scholarship Program. All products available on the site can be easily browsed and requested using scholarship funds where eligible. Please note that you will be required to enter your zip code when accessing the site.

The Hope Scholarship Program continues to work towards onboarding additional TheoPay eligible websites to expand the options available to Hope Scholarship families and towards making the purchasing process as simple and efficient as possible.

## Returning to Public School

If your Hope Scholarship student returns to a WV public school at the semester, be sure to notify Hope Scholarship Board staff by email at to [hopescholarshipwv@wvsto.com](mailto:hopescholarshipwv@wvsto.com) within five business days of the student's return to public school. As a reminder, it is unlawful to continue to spend Hope Scholarship funds if your student is attending public school full-time.

## Submission of Expanded Reimbursement Requests

As a reminder, the Hope Scholarship Board's expanded reimbursement policy ended on December 31, 2024.

The following items which were temporarily allowable for reimbursement are no longer eligible for reimbursement if purchased after December 31, 2024: technology equipment, school uniforms, basic educational supplies, assistive technology, musical instruments and related supplies, individual online curriculum subscriptions, and other educational supplies.



Please submit any reimbursements falling into the expanded criteria that were purchased on or before December 31, 2024, as quickly as possible during January 2025.

## SMART529 "When I Grow Up" Essay Contest - Enter Today!

The State Treasurer's Office recently announced the 18th annual When I Grow Up Essay Contest. Sponsored by the SMART529 College Savings Program, the essay contest is a highly successful initiative to encourage West Virginia students in grades K-5 to dream about their future, reward them for doing so, and educate them on the importance of higher education.

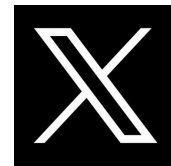
Fifteen regional student winners will win \$500 each in a SMART529 education savings account. The winners may participate in a random drawing for an



additional \$4,500 grand prize.

Electronic entries may be created or uploaded at [SMART529.com/studententry](https://SMART529.com/studententry). Paper entries may be printed and sent by mail. The contest deadline is **February 28, 2025**.

## Follow Us on Social Media!



Stay up to date on important reminders for the Hope Scholarship Program by following the official West Virginia Treasury social media accounts.

The official Hope Scholarship website, [www.hopescholarshipwv.com](http://www.hopescholarshipwv.com) is a great resource for the most up to date information regarding the Hope Scholarship Program.

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