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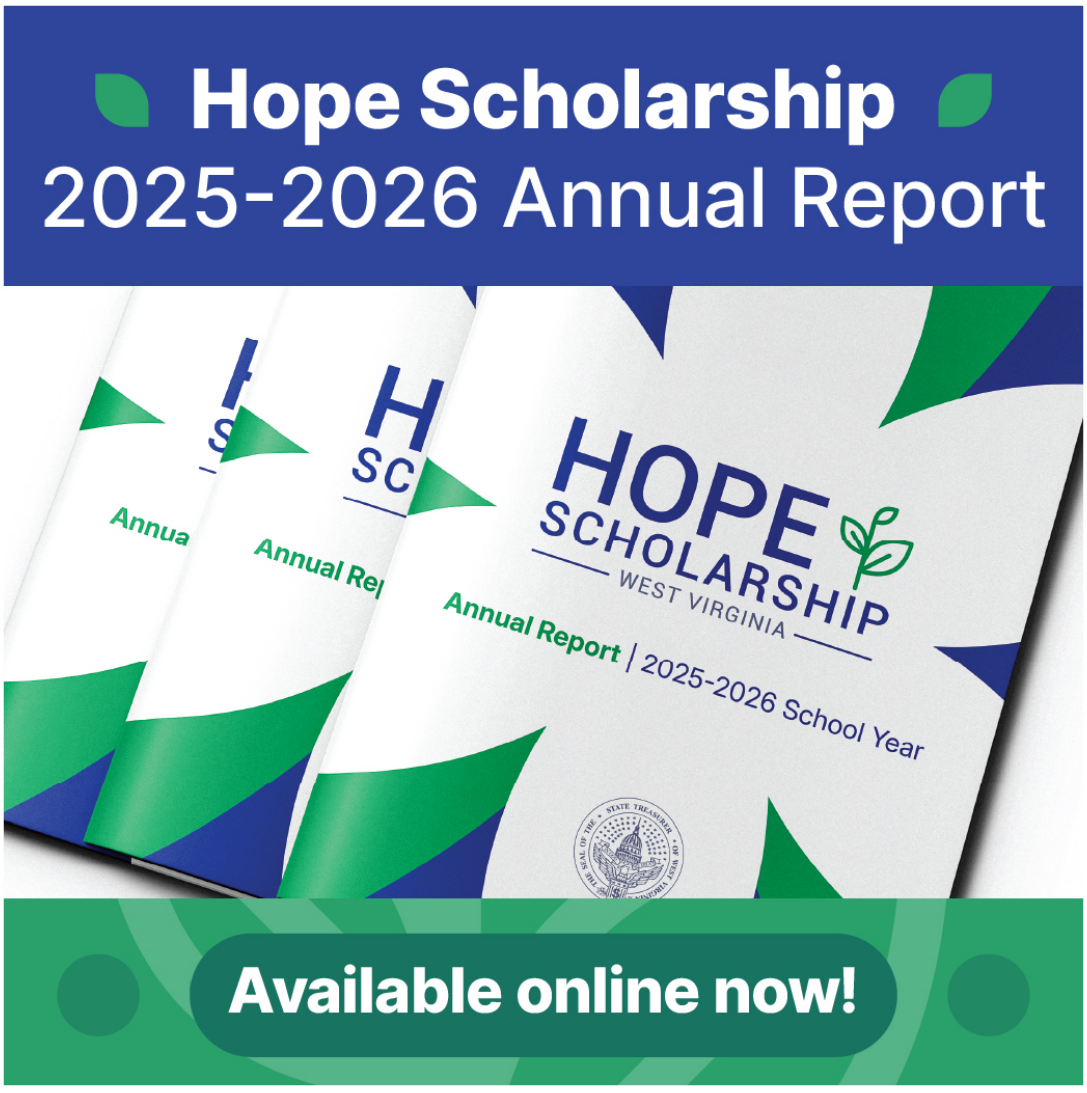

The Hope Scholarship 2025-2026 school year annual report is now available to the public. Click on the link to see newly released statistical data for the Hope Scholarship Program which also includes results from the 2025-2026 Parent Satisfaction Survey.

Hope Scholarship 2025-2026 Annual Report

Second Quarter Hope Scholarship Funds Now Available

Funding for the second quarter of the 2026-2027 school year became available in student accounts on October 15 for applications in the approved status. If your student attends a nonpublic school or microschool, the second quarter tuition and fees button is unlocked in the portal and you will be able to send your second quarter funds to your school. If you need a refresher on how to pay your tuition and fees, watch the below video on our website.

Hope Scholarship Q&A Spotlight

Question: My student's application is in approved status but there are no funds in the account. How can I find more information on when the account will receive funds?

Answer: Hope Scholarship funds are distributed to student accounts four times during the school year in August, October, January, and April. For more information on what amount of funding you can expect, please click **HERE** to review the funding distribution chart. Remember, the date a student's application is submitted determines the amount of funding. The date the application is updated to the status approved determines when funding will be received.

For more Frequently Asked Questions please review our FAQ page **HERE.**

Understanding Qualifying Expenses

If you have read the Qualifying and Non-Qualifying expense lists and cannot determine if something your student needs to support their education is a qualifying expense, please review the **Eligible Expenses Decision Criteria** to help you make the best decision.

Important: TheoPay Return Process Update

TheoPay

Returns can no longer be processed for items purchased through TheoPay Fulfillment from the whitelisted vendor Land's End when the items have logos for a specific school attached to them. It is now recommended to either purchase items that do not contain a school logo or purchase items containing a school logo with out-of-pocket funds. As a reminder, uniforms are not eligible for reimbursement. If you are unsure of your student's size, you may want to use TheoPay Self-Serve for purchasing uniform items that do not contain a school logo to be able to quickly track and return items as needed. TheoPay Self-Serve can only be used on orders where the total is $75 or less, so you may need to split up your items into separate orders when using TheoPay Self-Serve.

New TheoPay Whitelisted Vendors

The following vendors have been newly whitelisted for TheoPay in the online portal:

- Stitch N Time Sewing
- Nest
- Earthschooling
- Inside Out Science
- Super Duper, Inc.
- The Awesome Stuff
- Literacy Arcade
- Studio Sprout
- The Peaceful Press
- Discovery Bin
- Penworthy - STEAM

Deadline Approaching for New 2026-2027 Applications

As a reminder, any eligible student wanting to be considered for 50% of the scholarship amount for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year must apply by

November 30, 2026. Any application submitted after November 30, 2026, will be considered for 25% of the scholarship amount for the 2026-2027 school year.

SMART529 K-5 Essay Contest

Celebrating it's 20th Anniversary, the SMART529 "When I Grow Up" essay contest allows West Virginia students in kindergarten through 5th grade the chance win up to $5,000 for education! To enter, students must write about what they want to be when they grow up in 200 words or less.

Fifteen regional winners will each be awarded $500 invested into a SMART529 college savings account. Out of the regional winners, one grand prize winner will be randomly selected to receive a total of $5,000 toward a SMART529 account. Each winner's school will also receive a $500 cash award.

Teachers of grades kindergarten through fifth also have the opportunity to compete in the teacher portion of the essay contest. This year's winning teacher will receive a $2,500 cash prize.

The contest is open now! Click below for contest rules and entry. **The deadline for entries is Dec. 11, 2026.**

SMART529 Essay Contest

Important Upcoming Dates

November 30, 2026: Last day for eligible new students to apply to receive 50% of the scholarship amount for the 2026-2027 school year.

December 1, 2026: First day for eligible new students to apply to receive 25% of the scholarship amount for the 2026-2027 school year.

January 2, 2026: Last day for eligible students to have a Hope Scholarship Notice of Intent (NOI) recorded with their County Board of Education to receive a quarterly funding distribution on January 15, 2027.

January 4, 2027: First day for existing students to submit Continue Participation Confirmations for the 2027-2028 school year.

January 15, 2027: Third quarterly funding available in student accounts for the 2026-27 school year.

Fraud and Abuse Reporting

If you are aware of any person who has abused the use of their Hope Scholarship funds or has committed fraud or attempted to commit fraud involving Hope Scholarship funds, you can file a report on the Hope Scholarship website. Click on the link below to report fraud or abuse.

Report Fraud or Abuse

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

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