



## A Message from West Virginia State Treasurer Larry Pack

Merry Christmas from the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office! It's an honor and a blessing to serve as your State Treasurer and Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board.

This past year, we welcomed thousands of new students and families to the program and will continue to do so as we expand eligibility to all school aged children in 2026. This will be a monumental leap forward for school choice and education as a whole, allowing tens of thousands of additional West Virginia families to access the program.

In addition to welcoming new students, we have made great programmatic strides since this time a year ago and we feel confident that we are in the best position our program has ever been in. The Hope Scholarship Board also approved a partnership with Outschool, an education platform that offers live, small-group, online classes. This move ensures that families using Hope funds can easily access high-quality educational experiences that support their child's individual goals and needs. Because at the end of the day, this is all about ensuring we put students first.

Our program continues to be the gold standard for ESA programs nationwide. We constantly hear from our team that other states want to be like West Virginia. Despite our success, we continue to work towards improving program recipient experiences and outcomes. Our goal will be simple: making it easier for families to find the education that meets their unique needs.

Again, I want to thank you for participating in the Hope Scholarship. I'd also like to thank my team for working diligently to answer your questions. We look forward to another successful year. I wish you and your families a prosperous 2026!



Larry Pack  
West Virginia State Treasurer  
Hope Scholarship Board Chairman



## Available Now: 2024-2025 Hope Scholarship Annual Report

The Hope Scholarship 2024-2025 Annual Report is now available to the public on the program website. Click on the link to see newly released statistical data for the Hope Scholarship Program.

[Annual Report](#)

## Reimbursement Policy Updates

At their meeting on December 10, the Hope Scholarship Board (Board) adopted updates to the Board's Reimbursement Policy. The out-of-pocket purchase of the Classic Learning Test and the out-of-pocket purchase of tuition and fees for enrollment in dual credit or college level courses were added to the list of items eligible for reimbursement. In addition, the updated policy instructs Board staff to deny reimbursement requests when the documentation submitted demonstrates the out-of-pocket expense was incurred by an individual other than the account holder. A link to the full updated policy can be found [HERE](#).

When making out-of-pocket purchases for reimbursement, be sure that the Hope Scholarship account holder makes the purchase, not a spouse or other relative.

## Parent Handbook Update

[The Hope Scholarship Parent Handbook](#) has been updated with changes adopted by the Board at the December 10 meeting.

Aptitude testing, smartboards, and fees for general or special admission to geological locations were added to the qualifying expense list for the program. Smartboards were added to the Board's two-year technology limit policy.



The Hope  
Scholarship Parent  
Handbook

Updated: December 10, 2025

## Nonqualifying Expense List Updates

The Board also made updates to the Nonqualifying Expense List during the December 10 meeting. The following language was updated as noted below with underlined text:

- Family memberships, except for educational digital subscriptions where the cost of the family membership would result in cost savings when spread over the Hope Scholarship account holder's participating students
- Groceries/food (Exceptions: 1. Student lunch fees charged by a participating school or microschool for lunches consumed on school premises during the school day; or 2. Educational subscription boxes that include some food ingredients, provided that a lesson plan is included in the box.)

In addition, the Board moved that Go Pros and video recorders fall into the Board's existing Nonqualifying Expense language that disallows "cameras and camera accessories in excess of \$500" and also into the Board's existing two-year technology limits for cameras.

## Returning to Public School at Second Semester Reminder

As a reminder, if your student is planning to return to public school at the beginning of the second semester, please be sure to notify the Hope Scholarship Program by emailing [hopescholarshipwv@wvsto.gov](mailto:hopescholarshipwv@wvsto.gov) so the team can update your student's account status. Hope Account Holders are legally required to notify the program any time a student returns to public school, moves out of state, or stops participating in the Hope Scholarship Program for any other reason. It is unlawful to spend Hope Scholarship funds if your student has returned to public school.

## NEW: TheoPay Returns Video

A new video outlining how to submit a TheoPay Return request is available on the Hope Scholarship website. If you need to return an item purchased through TheoPay, please review the new video below or the [TheoPay Order Returns Process](#) instruction document. All returns are subject to the vendor's specific return policy.

# How to Submit a TheoPay Return Request



## Important Reminders!

### Pay First Semester Tuition and Fees

Current records show that approximately 200 students still have not pushed the button to pay their tuition and fees to their selected nonpublic school or microschool in the Hope Scholarship online portal.

**Please check the online portal and make sure that your first semester tuition and fees have been paid.**

### Select IIP or School in Portal

As of December 10, records show that approximately 500 approved students still have not made a selection in the Hope Scholarship online portal to indicate whether their student is an Individualized Instructional Plan (IIP) student or attending a school for the 2025-2026 school year. All students must make a selection in the system. **If you have not already made a selection for your student, please do so as soon as possible.**

## Need a WVEIS ID# for Your 2026-2027 Hope Scholarship Application?

If you need to obtain your student's existing WVEIS ID# or have one assigned for your student for the 2026-2027 school year, please be sure to complete the **WVEIS ID Request Form** and email it to your local county board of education. More information about this process can be found in our **previous announcement** and our **FAQs**. Families are encouraged to submit requests now instead of waiting until March to help ensure the county boards of education have sufficient time to reply based on the volume of requests received.

## New TheoPay Whitelisted Vendors

- MiaPlaza, Inc.

- Math Stackers
- St. Augustine Academy Press
- Create Art Box
- Simply Lettered Studio
- The Classical Cottage
- Chicken Scratch
- Grooved Learning
- Knowledge Crates
- nature+nurture
- Real Science 4 Kids
- New Leaf Publishing Group
- Mint and Bloom Learning
- Curiosity Chronicles
- Brick Math
- Bolder Magazine
- Notes by Charlotte
- Safran Publishing Company
- Handwriting Success
- Brave Books
- Well Planned Gal
- Tappity, Inc.
- Fawley Music
- BoomLoom Looms
- Paiva Education
- SilverDean Solutions

## Updates to Outschool Document

The **Outschool Learning Passport Instruction Guide** has been updated to include a description of the categories of Outschool courses approved for purchase with Learning Passports purchased with Hope Scholarship funds.

## Important Upcoming Dates

**January 5, 2026** – First day for existing students to submit Continued Participation Confirmations for the 2026-2027 School Year

**January 15, 2026** – Second semester Hope Scholarship funding available in student accounts

**February 28, 2026** – Last day to apply for 25% funding for the 2025-2026 School Year

**March 2, 2026** – First day to apply for 100% funding for the 2026-2027 School Year

**June 8, 2026** – Academic progress information for the 2025-2026 School Year is due to county board of education

**June 15, 2026** – Last day to apply for 100% funding for the 2026-2027 School Year

**June 16, 2026** – First day to apply for 75% funding for the 2026-2027 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](#)



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