



We Want to Hear from You!



Account Holders for students who currently participate in the Hope Scholarship Program will be receiving a Parent Satisfaction Survey via email later this month for the 2025-26 school year. Parents will be asked ten questions to help provide feedback that will be used to make improvements to the program as well as to report required satisfaction data in the Hope Scholarship Annual Report for the school year. Responses will be anonymous and completion of the survey is optional.

Common Application Errors

When submitting your student's Hope Scholarship application, please pay close attention to the instructions related to proof of residency requirements, particularly if you are using manual documentation instead of Plaid. The top five errors related to proof of residency are as follows:

1. Only providing a picture of the account holder's driver's license - a second document from the list is required if you aren't using Plaid to validate your residency is still current.
2. Only providing one utility bill instead of two - utility bills from two different utility providers are required if using utility bills.
3. Submitting documents that aren't in the list of acceptable proof of residency documents - please only use the document types specified.
4. Leaving utility bills folded - utility bills must be unfolded so we can see all of the necessary information.
5. Submitting expired or non-current documentation - please ensure that the documents you submit have not expired and are current.



CPC Deadline Approaching

Any current Hope Scholarship student who plans to participate for the 2026-27 school year must submit a Continued Participation Confirmation (CPC) by June 15, 2026 in the Hope Scholarship Portal. Late CPCs will not be accepted. If a current participating student fails to submit a CPC by June 15, the student must apply as a new applicant for the 2026-27 school year with a reduced funding amount and the student will also lose any carryover funds in their account.

Year End Academic Progress Reminder



As a reminder, there are **academic/attendance reporting requirements** for all Hope Scholarship students which are **due no later than June 8** annually to the county superintendent of the student's county of residence. For students attending a participating nonpublic school, the school is required to submit the documentation on behalf of the student. For Individualized Instructional Program (IIP) students, the

parent/guardian is required to submit either nationally normed academic standardized test results or a certified teacher portfolio review for the student.

More information about the year-end academic reporting requirements can be found in the [Hope Scholarship FAQs](#) on our website. The FAQs include topics such as the specific subjects required for nationally normed testing, the sample portfolio review form, etc.

If you do not submit the required documentation for your renewal student, state law requires that the Hope Scholarship account be terminated and all money remaining in the account returned to the State of West Virginia. Please be sure to submit your required academic documentation by the June 8 deadline!

The status of your student's Continued Participation Confirmation for 2026-27 will not be updated from Conditionally Eligible to Approved until **mid-July** after Hope Scholarship Board staff have confirmed submission of the required academic/attendance reporting information with the West Virginia Department of Education.

Additional Important Reminders!

100% Funding Deadline Approaching

New students applying for the Hope Scholarship Program have until June 15, 2026 to submit applications to be considered for 100% of the scholarship amount for the upcoming school year. New

Pay Second Semester Tuition and Fees

If your student attends a non-public school for the 2025-26 school year and you still have not paid second semester tuition and fees in the Hope Scholarship online portal, please submit payment as soon as possible.

applications submitted starting June 16, 2026 will receive 75% of the scholarship amount.

Please click [HERE](#) for a helpful video on how to pay tuition and fees.

Notice of Intent (NOI) Requirement for New Hope Participants

Once a new Hope Scholarship student's 2026-27 application reflects a status of Eligible, parents/guardians can submit a Hope Scholarship NOI for the upcoming 2026-27 school year to their county board of education of their county of residence. Please ensure you mark the correct school year on the NOI. It is recommended that you submit your [Hope Scholarship NOI](#) to your local county board of education using the special email address created for this purpose. Please click [HERE](#) for the list of county board of education email addresses.

New 2026-27 applications will reflect the status of Eligible until the Hope Scholarship Board staff confirm the NOI is on file with the county board of education. Hope Board staff will not update application statuses to Approved for students that have completed this requirement until mid-July 2026. When the application is updated to Approved status, account holders can select the student's Hope educational pathway directly in the portal.



FAQ: When will my student's digital wallet appear in the Hope Scholarship portal?

The digital wallet for a new Hope Scholarship participant will not appear in the online portal until the account is funded for the first time. Once the account is funded, the wallet and account dashboard populate in the online portal. Please be sure to check the online portal and your email for updates throughout the summer regarding your student's Hope Scholarship account.

Reimbursement Policy Reminders

The [Hope Scholarship Reimbursement Policy](#) does not permit reimbursement for items purchased out of pocket prior to a student's Hope Scholarship account being funded. Any reimbursement request for a purchase made prior to a student's account being funded for the first time will be denied, even if the item would otherwise be eligible for reimbursement under the policy. Please wait until funds are available in a student's account to make any out-of-pocket purchases and be sure to familiarize yourself with what items are eligible for reimbursement. Just because an item is a qualifying expense under the program does not make it eligible for reimbursement. New Hope Scholarship students will have access to the Reimbursement Request module in the Hope Scholarship online portal once the account is funded for the first time. Existing students with carryover funds available can make purchases and submit reimbursement requests over the summer.

Using SMART529 to Pay for K-12 Expenses

Did you know that SMART529 Education Savings Accounts can be used to pay for K-12 expenses, in addition to college tuition and fees? The passage of H.R. 1 expanded use for qualified K-12 expenses of up to \$20,000 per child. Qualified expenses include tuition, tutoring, books, standardized test fees (ACT/SAT), dual enrollment, curriculum and educational therapies for students with disabilities.



Contributions to a SMART529 account result in West Virginia state tax advantages, including the ability to reduce your federal gross adjusted income by the amount contributed to a SMART529 account when determining your West Virginia Personal Income Tax. If your child's annual private school tuition and fees or your homeschooling expenses exceed the Hope Scholarship amount, contributing the difference to a SMART529 account to take advantage of these state tax benefits may be a good option for you. Please consult with your tax and investment professionals to make an informed decision. More information about SMART529 can be found at [**SMART529 West Virginia's Education Savings Plan**](#).

Fund the Future Sweepstakes



The SMART529 Education Savings Program is offering West Virginia residents who are 17 years of age or younger the chance to win \$10,000 deposited directly into a SMART529 account!

See "Sweepstakes Official Rules" for more details and complete your sweepstakes entry by clicking [**HERE**](#). **The deadline to enter the Sweepstakes is May 20, 2026.**

The winner will be selected through a random drawing.

[**Fund the Future Sweepstakes**](#)

In Case You Missed It

A webinar was held April 16 for interested families to learn more about the Hope Scholarship Program. Click below to view the recorded webinar. [**Click HERE**](#) for the presentation materials.

Common Eligibility Question:

What if my child doesn't turn 5 before July 1? Can he or she become eligible early?

The legislative rules for the Hope Scholarship Program contain a provision that if a student who does not meet the age requirements is admitted to a West Virginia public kindergarten program under the public kindergarten program's early admittance process, the student may become eligible for the Hope Scholarship Program.

A program of the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office

Did You Know?

Account Holders can search by category when browsing the closed Marketplace in the Hope Scholarship Portal. To search for a specific category in the Marketplace, navigate to the top right-hand corner. Under the "Category" section, click on the drop-down menu to select and search for service providers within a specific category.

FAQ: How can I find a rejected TheoPay order in the Hope Scholarship online portal?

To view rejected TheoPay orders in the Hope Scholarship online portal, please navigate to the "TheoPay" tab on the account dashboard for your student. Once this is selected, scroll down to the bottom of the page to view any rejected TheoPay orders. Each rejected order will include the reason for the rejection.

New TheoPay Vendor

Alpha Earl Apps, Games & Books is a new whitelisted TheoPay vendor available for Hope Scholarship families.

Important Upcoming Dates

June 8, 2026: Annual academic/attendance progress reporting for the 2025-2026 school year due to the county board of education

June 15, 2026: Deadline to submit CPCs and deadline for new applicants to receive 100% funding for the 2026-2027 school year

June 16, 2026: First day of the 75% funding window for the 2026-2027 school year

Mid-July: Applications in Conditionally Eligible and Eligible status will begin to be updated to Approved status for the 2026-2027 school year after verification of academic progress and NOIs being on file in WVEIS



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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