



Outschool Partnership



The West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program is excited to announce a new partnership with Outschool. Outschool is an innovative education platform offering live, small-group, online classes across a wide range of subjects. It currently offers more than 140,000 live online classes to over 1.5 million students nationwide.

Outschool will be offering Learning Passports for sale in the Hope Scholarship online portal marketplace.

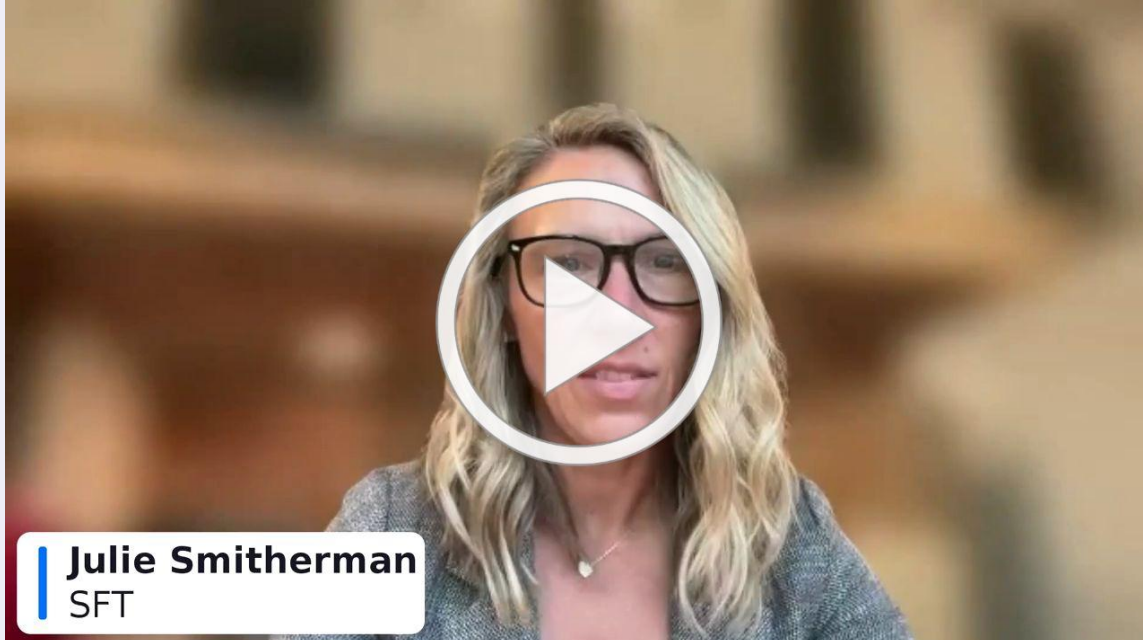
These Learning Passports are non-transferable Outschool credits which are tied to the eligible Hope Scholarship student and that can only be used for state-approved Outschool classes for that specific student. If a student leaves the Hope Scholarship Program at any time, their remaining Outschool balance will be returned to the State.

Outschool Learning Passports will be available in increments of \$50, \$100 and \$200. Students may have a maximum of \$500 in Outschool credits in their Outschool account at any given time. In the rare event that a student has an educational need to have more than \$500 in their Outschool account at one time, the Hope account holder may email Hope Scholarship Board staff at hopescholarshipwv@wvsto.gov to request an exception to the limit.

For detailed information on how this process will work, please review the Outschool instructional document found [HERE](#).

New Participants Webinar

If you missed the August 5 webinar for new Hope Scholarship participants, we encourage you to watch the recording below for important information.



Julie Smitherman
SFT

Updated Reimbursement Policy

At the August 7 meeting of the Hope Scholarship Board, the Board voted to make some minor updates to the Board's Reimbursement Policy. The Board removed outdated language that only applied to purchases made between August and December of 2024 and added language to allow the reimbursement of "the out-of-pocket purchase of benchmark assessments, including subject-specific assessments."

A link to the Board's Reimbursement Policy can be found [HERE](#).

Updated Non-Qualified Expense List

At its recent meeting, the Hope Scholarship Board also made updates to the Board's Non-Qualifying Expense List. The Board voted to add the following items to the list:

- Allowable items with excessive/unreasonable costs.
- Items or services purchased prior to Hope Scholarship funds being available in the student's Hope Scholarship online platform account, even if the item would have otherwise been considered a qualifying expense. This includes but is not limited to expenses incurred for a preceding school year.

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

At the meeting, the Board also adopted a motion to consider lunch boxes as a school supply, opening the door for lunch boxes to be purchased with Hope Scholarship funds.

Don't Forget!
Make Your Required School or IIP

Selection for 2025-2026

If you haven't already gone to your "My Applications" tab in the Hope Scholarship online portal and made your school selection or indicated that your student will be doing an Individualized Instructional Plan (IIP) for the 2025-2026 school year, please do so ASAP.



All students must make a selection in the portal for 2025-2026. If your student attended a nonpublic school or microschool in 2024-2025, that selection doesn't automatically carry over into 2025-2026, even if you can still see your student's school from prior year on the blue "My School" tile on your dashboard. The dashboard won't update to the 2025-2026 school selection until accounts are funded on August 15, 2025.

If your student won't be attending a nonpublic or microschool for the 2025-2026 school year, please select IIP from the dropdown list. It should be the very first option.

You can watch a brief video tutorial on how to complete this task below.



Upcoming Important Dates

- Aug. 15: First semester funding released for applications in Approved status
- Sept. 15: Last day for eligible students to apply for 75% scholarship funding
- Sept. 16: First day for eligible students to apply for

50% scholarship funding



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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