



Message from the Treasurer

As the 2025-2026 school year kicks off in West Virginia, I would like to take a moment to congratulate our new and returning Hope Scholarship participants!

The Hope Scholarship has empowered thousands of parents and students to find the education that fits their unique needs. Every child deserves a shot at a bright future – and that’s what the Hope Scholarship offers. I am thrilled to welcome you to the program for this upcoming school year.

My Office’s goal is to ensure the Hope Scholarship program is run efficiently and students can find the education that they need. We have seen tremendous growth and expect program participation to increase throughout the school year due to, in part, the additional flexibility allowed for year-round application options for interested families.

It has been an honor and a blessing to serve as your 26th State Treasurer and Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board. As a father of six children, I know first-hand how important it is for parents to have options when it comes to education. My kids all had different needs when they went to school. It is clear one size does not fit all.

That’s why I have made it a priority to visit schools across our state, hear from school administrators, families, and students about how the Hope Scholarship has benefited them, along with discussing ways we can improve the program. My team is also committed to sharing success stories of our program participants.

I want to thank each of you for your participation in the Hope Scholarship. My staff is looking forward to another successful year as we work diligently to operate the program!

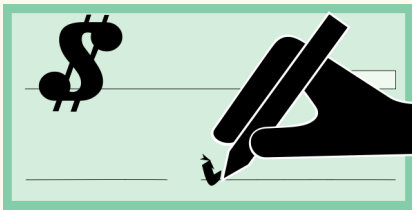
Sincerely,



First Semester Funding

First semester Hope Scholarship funding for the 2025-2026 school year for students in Approved status as of Friday, August 8 will be available in the students' digital wallets on August 15. If your student is still in Conditionally Eligible status, your student's academic progress for the 2024-2025 school year is still not on file with the county board of education. If your student is still in Eligible status, your student's Notice of Intent is not yet on file with the county board of education. If the issues were resolved after August 8 and your student's status is now Approved, your student's funding will be processed with the next available monthly funding file in September. Please note that the funding is only delayed – the amount of your student's funding is not impacted.

Pay Your First Semester Tuition and Fees



Students attending a nonpublic school or microschool for the 2025-2026 school year must take action in the Hope Scholarship online portal to pay their first semester tuition and fees to their school once their account has been funded. The funds are not automatically sent to the school.

Please refer to the Parent Portal Guide found [HERE](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to select your school for the 2025-2026 school year and pay your student's tuition and fees in the online portal. You can also watch a short video below.

How to Pay Tuition &
Fees for the 2025-2026
Academic Year



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TheoPay Purchase Tips

For a quick refresher on how to make TheoPay purchases for qualifying expenses for your Hope Scholarship student, please watch the video tutorials found on our website under **Helpful Videos**. In addition to the videos, see below for additional TheoPay tips.

- If you have multiple students, please be sure that you are making the purchases under the correct student's account.
- Curriculum purchases more than two grade levels above or one grade level below the current grade level of the student will require additional justification. Hope Scholarship Board staff or Hope Engagement Center staff will reach out to the parent regarding the purchase. This will delay fulfillment of the order.
- Hope Scholarship funds can only be used for purchases for the approved student. The funds cannot be shared with other non-participating siblings or even siblings who are also participating Hope students.
- Familiarize yourself with the Board's Non-Qualifying Expense list found **HERE**.

We encourage all families to be patient during peak TheoPay ordering times. Thousands of Hope Scholarship students will be placing TheoPay orders at one time so fulfillment times will be delayed due to the higher volume. Please remember that off-the-shelf curriculum is eligible for reimbursement under the Board's **reimbursement policy** and will be a faster option to get the curriculum you need to start the school year.

Shipping Address Changes for TheoPay Orders

If you have moved since submitting your Hope Scholarship application or need to have a different shipping address than your physical address, please be sure to get that new shipping address on file with the Hope Scholarship Program PRIOR to placing a TheoPay order.

Unless a separate shipping address is indicated in the Hope Scholarship online platform, all TheoPay orders will ship to the student's physical address noted on their application. You can update your shipping address by contacting the Hope Engagement Center at 681-999-HOPE or **help@hopescholarshipwv.com**.

TheoPay Returns

If you need to make a return for an item purchased through TheoPay, please review the document outlining the TheoPay returns process **HERE**.

This document will walk you step-by-step through making a return for a purchased item.

In addition, a list of TheoPay vendor return policies can be found **HERE**.

If you need assistance with making a return, please contact the Hope Engagement Center at **help@hopescholarshipwv.com** or 681-999-HOPE.

The updated Parent Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year is now available on the Hope Scholarship website at the following link: [**The Hope Scholarship Parent Handbook**](#).



Key changes to the Parent Handbook include the following:

- Updated general references from the 2024-2025 school year to the 2025-2026 school year.
- Added the definition of “Reasonable Cost” that was adopted by the Hope Scholarship Board at their August 7, 2025 meeting.
- Updated the instructions for the submission of Eligibility appeals.
- Removed outdated references to the temporary expansion of the Board’s reimbursement policy during the fall of 2024.
- Added language to clarify several common questions regarding Notice of Intent requirements.

Please familiarize yourself with the updated version of the Parent Handbook to stay up to date with all Hope Scholarship rules and regulations.

Meet the Cornell Family

Hear what the Cornell Family of Wood County has to say about West Virginia's Hope Scholarship below.



Did you have a great experience with Hope Scholarship? Let us know! Share your story [**HERE**](#).

FREE Back-to-School Event with Clifford the Big Red Dog

West Virginia Public Broadcasting presents:

Back-to-School with **Clifford** The BIG RED DOG

August 23, 2025
11:00AM – 1:00PM
Raleigh County Public Library
221 N Kanawha St, Beckley, WV 25801

- **Meet and greet with Clifford!**
- **Storytime**
- **Fun children's activities**
- **Free PBS KIDS giveaways**
- **Community vendors**



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Join SMART529 and West Virginia Public Broadcasting for a free back-to-school celebration with Clifford the Big Red Dog on Saturday, August 23 at the Raleigh County Public Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will include a story, a meet and greet with Clifford, various children's activities, free PBS giveaways, and community vendors.

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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