

Frequently Asked Questions as a result of legislative changes July 2016

How did the initial eligibility rules change for military families?

Students who have attended a Department of Defense (DOD) school in North Carolina for the previous spring semester now meet the prior North Carolina public school enrollment requirement. Also, students who have a parent on full-time active military duty do not need to meet the prior North Carolina public school enrollment requirement. The student must still have a public school IEP as documentation of a disability and must also be a resident of North Carolina.

How else did the initial eligibility change for the Disabilities Grant?

In addition to changes for military families, a student who has lived in North Carolina for at least six months (even if the student has not attended a North Carolina public school) may now be eligible for a Disabilities Grant. The student must still have a public school IEP as documentation of a disability.

What is the priority of awards to new students?

Students who are renewing the Grant from the previous year are the first priority. New students on applications received by June 15 who are entering Kindergarten or first grade, who have a parent on full-time active military duty, or who attended a North Carolina public school or DOD school in North Carolina are the second priority. New students who have lived in North Carolina for at least six months are the third priority. Within each category students are considered in the order in which applications were received.

New students on applications received after June 15 are considered in the order in which the applications were received regardless of priority.

All new students must have a public school IEP to be considered.

Can parents now be reimbursed for tuition if the school chooses not to participate in the Disabilities Grant and Opportunity Scholarship Programs?

For Disabilities Grant recipients, yes. For Opportunity Scholarship recipients, no. Schools which agree to Program requirements receive funds directly from SEAA on behalf of student recipients. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, a nonpublic school can choose not to participate in the Disabilities Grant and Opportunity Scholarship Programs and therefore would not be subject to certain Program requirements. For the parents of Disabilities Grant students to receive a reimbursement at the end of the semester for tuition at that school, the school must be registered with the North Carolina Division of NonPublic Education.

Did the amount of the grant increase?

Yes. The Disabilities Grant disburses funds to schools or reimburses parents for actual tuition costs or qualified expenses up to \$4,000 per semester beginning with the fall 2016 semester.

How did the disability documentation change?

The initial documentation of a disability did not change. New students need a public school IEP, specifically a DEC3 Eligibility Determination.

The continuing eligibility (students must be re-evaluated every three years) can be performed by a psychiatrist in addition to a psychologist with a school psychology focus. Whether a psychiatrist or a psychologist, this person must be licensed in North Carolina.

See these additional resources for other program explanations:

[Disabilities Grant Program Overview](#)

[Disabilities Grant Frequently Asked Questions](#)