



Educational Scholarship Account (ESA)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

2020 -2021 School Year

For Office Use Only

Date Application Received: _____

Received by: _____

Control Number Assigned: _____

Have you applied for the scholarship in the past for the student? YES NO

Were you awarded the ESA scholarship in the past for the student? YES NO

If you were awarded the ESA in the past, please enter your ESA student number.

Parent/Legal Guardian Information

Parent/Legal Guardian Full Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Full Street Address: _____

Apartment/Unit #: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Numbers: Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Student Information

Student's Full Name: _____

Student's Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ MSIS: _____ SS# _____

Student's Primary Disability: _____

Home School District: _____

Name of Current School: _____

<p>Ethnicity (Choose One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p>Gender (Choose One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</p> <hr/> <p>Is the student eligible to receive free or reduced lunch?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
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The MDE shall conduct random audits throughout the year to ensure all ESA funds are being spent appropriately for the education of the participating students. Any fraudulent use of ESA funds shall be required to be repaid to the ESA and referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency, if needed. Educational service providers that defraud parents shall be immediately removed from the program.

I do hereby certify that all information provided by me in this application and the attached documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that in the event I have knowingly and willfully made any false statements, my student will be immediately removed from the ESA program and all funds will be forfeited.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date



The following documents **MUST** be included with your original signed application.

Due to the limited number of ESA awards available, incomplete or missing information on the applications will delay the processing and eligibility determination of your child.

1. Copy of parent/legal guardian's driver's license or State issued identification.
2. Copy of student's birth certificate.
3. If the parent/legal guardian listed on the application is not shown on the birth certificate as the mother or father of the student, then please submit a copy of the legal paperwork showing that the person completing and submitting the application has the authority to act on behalf of the student.
4. Proof of Residency (Copy of utility bill, rental agreement, or mortgage statement showing the above listed parent/legal guardian's name and physical address.)
5. Copy of student's most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP) that was active within the last three (3) years.
6. Copy of student's most recent eligibility and/or evaluation.
7. Original signed "Responsibilities of Parent/Guardians" page with all boxes properly initialed.

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, until 50% of the annual enrollment limits are reached. A random selection will then be used to choose the recipients of the remaining ESAs. A midyear lottery may be held in the event the scholarships become available. **Incomplete applications cannot be processed. Applications will be accepted via United States Postal Service, FAX, and online Portal (currently under development).**

Mail applications to: Mississippi Department of Education
Office of Special Education
Attention: Education Scholarship Account
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0771

FAX applications to: Attention ESA, (601) 359 - 2198

Educational Scholarship Account (ESA)

2020 -2021 School Year

Parent/Guardian Application Responsibilities

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Per the **Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs** Miss. Code Ann. § 37-181-5, in order for an eligible student to qualify to participate in the ESA program the parent or legal guardian **MUST** agree to the following statements listed below.

Please initial by each item signifying you agree to abide by the statements below if your child is awarded the ESA.

- I agree to provide an organized, appropriate educational program with measurable annual goals and to provide an education for my student in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science;
- I agree to provide documentation from the school district, a federal or state agency, or a licensed physician or psychometrist that my participating student continues to be identified as a child with a disability, as defined by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (20 USCS Section 1401(3), every three (3) years after initial enrollment in the program, unless my student is diagnosed with a permanent disability;
- I agree to not enroll my participating student in a public school and to acknowledge that the eligible school has provided clear notice that my student has no individual entitlement to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) from their home school district, including special education and related services, for as long as my student is participating in the ESA program;
- I agree to not file for my participating student a certificate of enrollment indicating participation in a home instruction (homeschool) program under section 37-13-91, Mississippi Code of 1972;
- I agree to not participate in the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program or the Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-Language Impairments Program while participating in the ESA program.
- I agree to notify the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) immediately upon a change in status that causes one or more of the above items to no longer be met.
- I acknowledge that immediately upon one or more of the above items not being satisfied, my ESA account will be closed, and all remaining funds will be forfeited.
- I acknowledge that random audits will be conducted by MDE throughout the year to ensure all ESA funds are being appropriately spent for the education of the participating students. Any fraudulent use of ESA funds shall be required to be repaid to the ESA and referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency, if needed.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date