

# **EXCEPTIONAL NEED STUDENT**

South Carolina has provided for exceptional need K5-G12 students to receive tuition scholarships or for parents to be reimbursed for tuition paid to a private or Christian school up to \$12,000 per student.

## **S.C. STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS OR TAX CREDITS**

This program is for a K5 – G12 students with some disability or condition that impedes the student's ability to learn and succeed in school. Read 1, 2, and 3 below to see who qualifies.

**Any student who meets the criteria of #1 OR #2 OR #3 qualifies for this scholarship.**

1. K5-G12 students who have a public school IEP or IDEA Eligibility Report written by a public school within the last three years.
2. A K5-G12 student who has been diagnosed with one or more of the following:
  - ADHD or ADD
  - Some speech and/or Language Impairment
  - Dyslexia
  - Developmentally Delayed
  - Some specific Learning Disability
  - Emotionally Disturbed
  - Autism (Spectrum Disorder including Asperger's Syndrome)
  - Asperger's Syndrome
  - Hearing Impaired
  - Orthopedic Impairment
  - Other Health Impairment
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - Visual Impairment
3. In general, K5-G12 students who have:
  - A neurodevelopmental disorder;
  - A substantial sensory or physical impairment;
  - Some other disability OR acute/chronic condition

### **WHO CAN MAKE THESE DIAGNOSIS?**

- Licensed speech pathologist
- Licensed psychiatrist
- Licensed medical healthcare provider (Doctor, Nurse Practitioner, PA, other)
- Licensed mental healthcare provider
- Licensed psycho-educational healthcare provider
- Other comparable licensed healthcare provider.

**Diagnosis once made is good for three years.**

# **SCHOLARSHIP OR REIMBURSEMENT?**

There is no guarantee that you will get a scholarship when you apply or that you will get the full amount applied for. However, if you get your applications in early there is more probability you will get some if not all the cost of tuition.

**BY FAR THE BEST OPTION IS TO PAY UPFRONT AND THEN GET REIMBURSED.** S.C. will reimburse you for the full amount you paid for tuition up to \$12,000 per student. If you need to, you are far better to pay the full amount with a credit card and make the minimum credit card payment until S.C. refunds what you paid. Another option is to borrow the money and repay the loan when S.C. refunds your money. Whatever the interest would amount to, it would be small compared to the cost of tuition.

## **TO GET REIMBURSED BY S.C., YOU NEED TO:**

1. Have in your possession an official printout from a licensed professional or doctor saying your child has a condition that will qualify him or her for these scholarship dollars. Give the school a copy of this.
2. Enroll your child in an approved school (CCA is an approved school) and get a printout from the school showing what the total tuition came to.
3. Pay the school and get a receipt for tuition.
4. Complete form TC-57A and submit it to the S.C. Department of Revenue (SCDOR). This form is available online at the SCDOR website. This is the link for TC-57A: <https://dor.sc.gov/forms/find-a-form#k=TC-57A>
5. Be patient. Normally, it will be June before reimbursements are received.

## **TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP, YOU NEED TO:**

1. Have in your possession an official printout from a licensed professional or doctor saying your child has a condition that will qualify him or her for these scholarship dollars. Give the school a copy of this.
2. Enroll your child in an approved school (CCA is an approved school).
3. Apply online at:

**[Apply - Exceptional SC - Exceptional SC](https://exceptionalsc.org/apply/)**

<https://exceptionalsc.org/apply/>