

K12 PROGRAMS: UPDATE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Renewing for 2017-18: current Opportunity Scholarship students

When and where do families renew for their students? Families will sign on to the Opportunity Scholarship Student Portal to see an electronic link titled "Renew for 2017-18". We expect this link to be available on February 1 (Wednesday). We will email current recipients asking them to renew during the month of February. There is no disadvantage to renewing on February 2, for example, however. Please do not worry or encourage families to worry if they cannot access the portal on Wednesday.

Who is a renewal? Students who received funds in either fall 2016 or spring 2017 have the option to renew the Opportunity Scholarship for 2017-18. Students who received an award but not funding cannot renew. Students who received funding in a prior year, but not in 2016-17, cannot renew.

Are renewals automatically awarded a Scholarship? No. All students must continue to meet income eligibility guidelines, for example. Renewals are considered with priority if they renew in a timely manner.

How does a delay in Endorsement Form submission impact renewal students? Students who are at your school with the Opportunity Scholarship, but for whom no funds have disbursed, cannot yet renew.

Note that the Opportunity Scholarship Program does not consider prior year applications from students who were not funded in 2016-17. Any student seeking an Opportunity Scholarship who did not receive funding in 2016-17 must apply as a new student.

Applying for 2017-18: new Opportunity Scholarship students

When and where do families apply for their students? The new student application will open at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1. The application is electronic. It will be available on the Opportunity Scholarships [website](#). The priority deadline is March 1. There is no disadvantage to applying in February after Wednesday. Please do not worry or encourage families to worry if they cannot complete the application on Wednesday.

What are some common problems with the application? (1) Families make errors which cause them to be labeled ineligible in error. Encourage families to go slowly and be careful. (2) Families don't always add all their children to the application. If they do not realize this until after the lottery, we cannot add their additional students to the previous application. (3) Families complete an application but do not *submit* it. We do not consider saved but not submitted applications. The parent applicant will receive an automated email when the application is submitted.

How does the application period impact schools? We have a limited staff. The week of the application opening we will prioritize assisting families who call and email. Thanks for your patience if we can't respond to school emails as quickly as usual. Help families not to panic if they cannot reach Opportunity Scholarship staff immediately. We will answer and return calls and respond to email as quickly as possible.

Opportunity Scholarship Program

Email: OpportunityScholarships@ncseaa.edu

Website: <http://www.ncseaa.edu/OSG.htm>

K12 Phone: 1-855-330-3955