Autism Scholarship Program 2019-2020 Fact Sheet

WHAT IS OHIO'S AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The Autism Scholarship Program (ASP) gives the parents of children with autism, who qualify for a scholarship, the choice to send the child to a special education program other than the one operated by the school district of residence to receive their education and the services outlined in the child's individualized education program (IEP).

WHEN WILL AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BE ACCEPTED?

Applications are accepted throughout the year. The deadline for students older than age three is March 31 of each year. The deadline for newly eligible students turning three is May 31 of each year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP?

Children who are at least three years old but less than twenty two years old, who qualify for special education under the autism category, and who have a current, finalized IEP with their district of residence are eligible to apply for the autism scholarship.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP?

If a student is eligible for the autism scholarship program, the first step is to register for services with a **participating autism scholarship provider**. That provider will give you the form to apply and assist you by submitting your applicaion online.

WILL EVERY CHILD WHO APPLIES BE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP?

If a student meets the eligibility requirements, they will be awarded a scholarship. There is no cap on the number of autism scholarships available.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The autism scholarship amount is the lesser of the fee charged for the child by the special education program or up to twenty-seven thousand dollars per program year. The child must be in the program for the full academic year to receive the full amount.

WILL PARENTS HAVE TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY?

Parents may have to pay for fees or services not covered under the scholarship. Also, if the provider's fees for covered services exceed the amount of the scholarship, the parent is responsible for the balance.

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ARE CHILDREN WHO ARE IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR HOME SCHOOLED ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes, but they must first obtain an IEP from their district of residence.

IF MY CHILD IS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP, HOW LONG CAN HE/SHE CONTINUE TO USE IT?

Scholarships are approved through June 30th of the current program year. Each Spring, parents who are interested in continuing to receive the scholarship must submit a renewal application. If the student has a current IEP and qualifies for special education under the category of autism, then they can continue to receive the scholarship for the next program year. Scholarships can be renewed until the child graduates from high school or reaches age twenty two.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the autism scholarship webpage at: http://education.ohio.gov/autism or send and email to: autismscholarship@education.ohio.gov.