JON PETERSON SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP
2019-2020 FACT SHEET

WHAT IS OHIO'S JON PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (JPSN) gives the parents of children with disabilities the choice to send their child to special education programs other than the one operated by their school district of residence to receive the education and the services outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Children are eligible to apply from kindergarten up to age 22 (if graduation requirements have not been met), and have been determined eligible for special education and related services through an Evaluation Team Report (ETR). A finalized IEP from their district of residence is required to receive the scholarship award.

WHEN WILL JPSN APPLICATIONS BE ACCEPTED?

Students may apply for the JPSN Scholarship year-round.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The scholarship amount is the lesser of the fee/tuition charged for the child by the special education program up to the maximum amount awarded based on the child's special education category.

Maximum scholarship amounts range from $7,598 to $27,000. The child must be enrolled in the scholarship program for the entire school year to receive the full scholarship amount. Refer to the Category Amounts chart for specific details.

WILL PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY?

The scholarship pays for services on the child's IEP. The cost of education is only included if the JPSN provider is a chartered non-public school, providing special education/related services and is an approved scholarship provider. Parents/legal guardians are also responsible for any costs exceeding the amount of the scholarship.

*Category 1 (Speech or Language Impairment) students may only utilize their scholarship to pay for related services that are included in the IEP. Students in this category cannot use the scholarship to pay tuition (education) at the nonpublic school.

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CAN A CHILD ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL AND USE THE JPSN SCHOLARSHIP?

No. The scholarship is an educational choice program. If a student is approved for the scholarship, the public district is no longer responsible for providing a free and appropriate education (FAPE).

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

Yes, but they must first be evaluated by their school district, and determined to qualify for special education.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

If a student is eligible for the JPSN Scholarship, the first step is to select a participating JPSN Provider to submit a scholarship application on behalf of the student. If multiple providers are selected, only one provider is able to submit the initial application. Additional selected providers will be able to access the application after the scholarship has been awarded to add applicable information.

WILL EVERY CHILD WHO APPLIES BE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP?

No, the number of scholarships awarded cannot exceed five percent of the total number of Ohio students identified as a child with a disability. If the number of eligible students who apply for a scholarship exceeds the number of available scholarships, a lottery will be conducted.

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

The scholarship application process occurs on a yearly basis. If the student continues to be eligible for special education and related services and has a current IEP, then a parent may submit a renewal application for the next program year.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the JPSN webpage at education.ohio.gov/jonpeterson or send an email to **Peterson.scholarship@education.ohio.gov**