Education Scholarship Trust Fund

Education Service Provider Guide



2026-2027 School Year

Updated August 2026

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EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) is a program administered by the South Carolina Department of Education that allows qualifying South Carolina families to apply for a scholarship of $7,634 per student, for the 2026-27 school year.

Families who qualify can use scholarship funds to create a customized, flexible education for their child.

South Carolina has contracted with ClassWallet for programmatic support and to manage the distribution of scholarship funds to participating families. Using a ClassWallet Digital Wallet, parents can use their student's scholarship to pay for approved expenses and make approved educational purchases.

Important Reminders:

- All providers wishing to provide services to ESTF participants must apply and be approved by the South Carolina Department of Education.

  After approval, providers **MUST** complete the ClassWallet registration process in order to receive payments from ESTF participants.
- There is no reimbursement to families, and all payments and purchases using scholarship funds must be made through the ClassWallet platform.
- The total yearly scholarship amount is $7,634, disbursed quarterly beginning in late July 2026.

2026-2027 School Year

$1,908.50 deposited on or before



Participating families will be given the opportunity to renew their ESTF at the end of the school year.
More information on the renewal process for the 2027-2028 school year will be provided to families in October 2026.

EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Education Service Providers are individuals or organizations approved by the South Carolina Department of Education to provide educational goods and services to ESTF students at the direction of their parent or guardian. The Department has developed an application process for Education Service Provider participation. This application is available year round here.

To be approved to participate, all tutors must have a Bachelor's Degree (minimum) and educational therapists must have a valid license in the therapy they provide.

To be approved to participate, independent schools must be organized as non-profit organizations. The forms to start a non-profit incorporation in South Carolina can be found here.

Tutoring in the following subjects is approved:

- Art
- English (including Grammar, Reading and Writing)
- Foreign Language
- Math
- Music
- Science (including Coding and Engineering)
- Social Studies (including History)

Educational therapies in the following areas are approved:

- ABA Therapy
- Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Therapies
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Vision Therapy
- Fees for initial evaluation and required therapy equipment used during service

Background Check Requirement

By state law, all ESTF service providers agree to adhere to the following attestation. This attestation includes background check requirements.

All facilities must attest that they perform background checks on staff members and all individual providers (those working independently and not affiliated with a facility) will need to complete a background check.

All providers will receive an email with a link to both the attestation and the background check instructions. The instructions are also available here.

Important Notes:

- Once approved by the Department, the provider must complete a registration process with ClassWallet. This allows them to begin receiving payments from ESTF families.

  If a provider does not appear on the list within the ClassWallet platform, they may not have completed the registration process and cannot receive payments.

- **There is no reimbursement to ESTF families.** All payments and purchases must be made to providers through the ClassWallet platform and only approved and registered providers are eligible to receive ESTF funds.

- In addition to being listed within the ClassWallet platform, the list of approved and registered providers is being made publicly available here.

  Interested providers can apply and will continue to be approved by the Department throughout the year.

APPROVED EXPENSES

Textbooks (K-12, in the following subject areas only):

- Math
- English (including Grammar, Reading and Writing)
- Science (including Coding and Engineering)
- Social Studies (including History)
- Foreign Language
- Art
- Music

Reading Books

Fiction and non-fiction literature in hardcover or paperback form, consistent with literature allowed in school libraries subject to SC Code 59-31-15 and all related regulations.

Instructional Materials/School Supplies

No bulk. Individual student use only.

- Art Supplies
  **Art supplies are limited to $500 per academic year.*
- Calculators (including graphing)
  ** Calculators are limited to $200 a year. Graphing calculators are limited to a purchase of 1 every 2 years.*
- Index cards and card "holders"
- Markers (including dry erase and highlighters)
- Notebooks (including composition notebooks)
- Paper (lined and copy and graph)
- Binders (3-ring, etc.)
- Pencils
- Pens
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Rulers
- Folders
- Glue
- Scissors
- USB cards

Computer Hardware*

Used primarily for a scholarship student's educational needs and approved by the department or a licensed physician.

- Laptop, desktop and tablet computers
  ** Computer (laptop or desktop) & tablet are limited to $1,000 each, 1 each every 2 academic years.*
  ** Computers identified as "gaming" will not be approved.*
- Printers and ink (3D printers are not approved)
  ** Monitor and printer are limited to $300 each, 1 each every 2 academic years.*
- Headphones
  **Headphones are limited to $100 per year.*
- Printer toner cartridges
  **Printer toner cartridges are limited to $100/purchase and $300/ academic year.*

******Product warranties included as part of the purchase are approved.*

Technological Devices*

Used primarily for a scholarship student's educational needs and approved by the department or a licensed physician.

- Apple Pen
- Keyboard
- Laminators *(limited to 1 every two years, capped at $100)*
- Mouse/mouse pad
- Protective case for technology *(iPad case, laptop case, etc.)*
- Standalone document scanners *(capped at $300)*

*****Computer hardware and technological device purchases will not be allowed until the completion of the initial enrollment verification.
*****Calculators are not included in the prohibition on technology purchases before enrollment verification.

Tutoring

- Art
- English (including Grammar, Reading and Writing)
- Foreign Language
- Math
- Music
- Science (including Coding and Engineering)
- Social Studies (including History)

Education Service Provider Tuition and Fees

(invoiced by independent schools)

- Enrollment/registration fees
- Technology fees
- Supply and book fees for classes or courses taken during the school day
- Academic testing and assessment fees

** Food, field trip, fundraising, graduation, and child care fees are not approved ESTF expenses.*

Tuition and Fees for an Approved Nonpublic Online Education Service Provider or Course

- Math
- English (including Grammar, Reading and Writing)
- Science
- Social Studies (including History)
- Foreign Language
- National norm-referenced examinations, advanced placement examinations, or similar assessments, industry certification exams, or examinations related to college or university admission.
- Test preparation classes/courses are also approved.

Educational Therapies

- ABA Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Vision Therapy
- Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Therapies

Services Provided by a Student's Non-Resident Public School:

- Out-of-district fees
- Individual classes
- After-school tutoring services
- Transportation (up to $3,000/academic school year)
- Fees or costs associated with participation in extracurricular activities

Fees for transportation

Paid to a fee-for-service transportation provider for the scholarship student to travel to and from an eligible provider, not to exceed $3,000 for each academic school year.

Required School Uniforms

Uniform clothing items that are required for school attendance, complying with school dress code policy.
**School uniforms are limited to $500/year*

HOW PAYMENTS AND PURCHASES ARE MADE THROUGH CLASSWALLET

Once the ClassWallet account is funded, the parent is able to issue payments to approved and registered service providers and can shop through the ClassWallet integrated Marketplace.

Two options are available:

1. Payments using the "Pay Vendor" feature on the ClassWallet homepage. Providers listed here include tutors, therapists, and other providers.

   An **invoice is required** for all payments through "Pay Vendor".

Provider Invoice Requirements

- ☐ Provider Name and Address
- ☐ Student Name
- ☐ Parent Name
- ☐ Date of Invoice
- ☐ Date of Service
- ☐ Type of Service (what payment is for: tutoring subject, therapy type, etc.)
- ☐ Total Amount Due

If you would like to include **more than one student on an invoice, please ensure they are listed separately**. The parent must submit the invoice for payment under the respective student's account.

No handwritten documents will be accepted.

NOTE: Payment for services can be made prior to the service(s) or paid after service(s) have been rendered. However, only invoices for services provided ON or AFTER July 1, 2026 will be approved for new families.

Renewal families will have the option to use their rollover funds for eligible summer expenses.

The billing/payment cadence is at the discretion of the provider. Weekly, monthly and quarterly invoices and payments are acceptable.

View how payments are made to providers through "Pay Vendor" here.

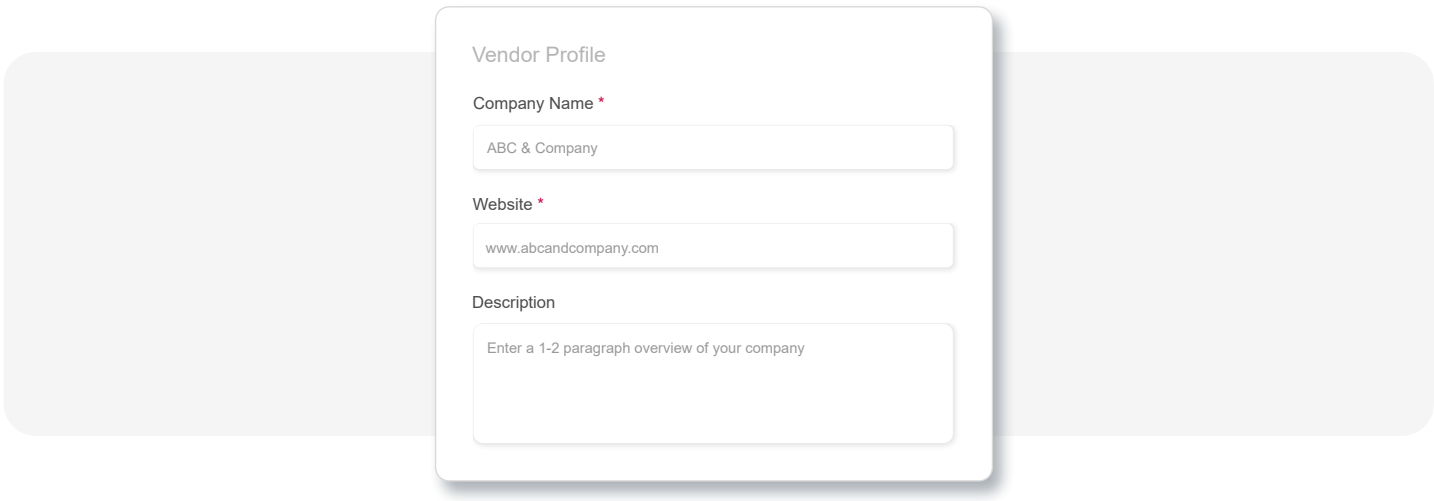
2. Purchases of educational items, like school supplies through the ClassWallet Marketplace. View how purchases are made through the Marketplace here.

PROVIDER PROFILE

As part of the approval and registration process, all Education Service Providers create their own log-in and have their own account within the ClassWallet platform.

Through the platform, providers have the ability to create a profile and share information that will allow families to have a better understanding of the service(s) provided. Website and contact information can be included.

The information provided will be visible to parents within the ClassWallet platform.



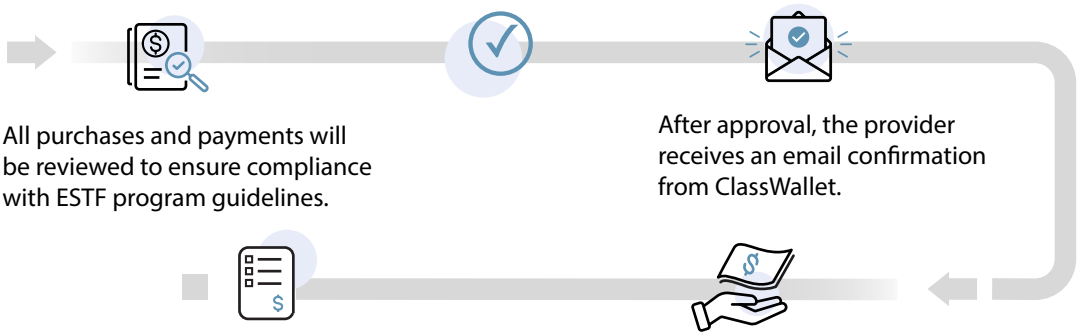
User Management

The User Management feature on the homepage allows account administrators to add and manage users.

Account administrators can invite other team members and control their level of account access by designating them either as a 'User' or 'Administrator.'

- **User:** Can view Payment Reports and manage their own credentials.
- **Administrator:** Has the user permissions, plus the ability to invite other users and administrators, update the linked bank account, and manage vendor profile information.

PAYMENTS AND REPORTS



All purchases and payments will be reviewed to ensure compliance with ESTF program guidelines.

After approval, the provider receives an email confirmation from ClassWallet.

The Reports feature within the platform provides an overview of payments received.

The payment should settle to the provider's designated bank account within 2 - 10 business days.

The Payment Report includes :

- Transaction ID
- Status (see definitions →)
- Date the transaction was last updated
- Can be exported in a CSV format.

Status Definitions:

- **Queued** - Transaction approved and is being readied for processing
- **Initiated** - Transaction has been sent to our processor
- **Processing** - Funds are moving between accounts
- **Settled** - Deposit should be visible in provider's bank account

GET SUPPORT AND QUICK LINKS

The ESTF website is up-to-date with the latest program information, and the ClassWallet Knowledge Base is full of resources. For all general program and digital wallet questions, ClassWallet is ready to help!

(877) 313-1299 **help@classwallet.com**

Customer support is available Monday through Friday 8am-8pm EST and Saturday 10am-4pm EST.

OTHER RESOURCES

ESTF Participant Frequently Asked Questions
ESTF Service Provider Frequently Asked Questions
ESTF Statute
South Carolina Department of Education ESTF webpage