

Education Scholarship Trust Fund Program

Frequently Asked Questions for Families | 2026–2027 School Year

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General Program Information

1. What is the Education Scholarship Trust Fund?

The Education Scholarship Trust Fund Program (ESTF) is administered by the South Carolina Department of Education. The ESTF Program allows qualifying South Carolina families with a student in K-12th grades to apply annually for a scholarship to use for the student’s educational expenses. The scholarship value is \$7,634 per student in the 2026-2027 school year and is projected to increase to \$7,795 in the 2027-28 school year. The South Carolina Department of Education has contracted with **ClassWallet** for programmatic support and to manage the distribution of scholarship funds to participating families. ClassWallet partners with **FACTS** for student applications for the program.

2. Who qualifies for the ESTF Program?

To qualify for the ESTF Program, the student must:

- o Be a resident of South Carolina;
- o Have a household income that does not exceed 500% of the federal poverty guidelines; and
- o In the year they are using the scholarship, the student must:
 - o Not enroll in the public school for which the family is residentially zoned; and
 - o Not [homeschool](#) under Option 1, 2, or 3; and

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- o Not participate in the [Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children \(ECENC\) program](#) or claim the [ECENC Parental Refundable Tax Credit](#).

3. Can my student remain in public school and participate?

While scholarship funds can be used to pay for inter- and intra-district transfer fees for public school, as well as other programs and fees through South Carolina public school districts that opt into the program, an ESTF participant cannot be enrolled in their resident public school as a full-time student. Your resident public school is the school your district has zoned for your child. However, students are able to use ESTF while attending a public school that is not their zoned school.

If a magnet program is hosted at your student's zoned public school, the magnet school is considered the zoned school for the purposes of ESTF compliance.

4. Can homeschooling families use the ESTF Program Scholarship to pay for expenses? Can families who educate at home qualify for the ESTF Program Scholarship?

If you are enrolled to [homeschool](#) under Option 1 (through your school district), Option 2 (through the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools), or Option 3 (through a homeschool association), you are not eligible to participate in the ESTF program. In South Carolina, Options 1-3 allow families to satisfy the state's compulsory attendance requirements.

However, by joining the ESTF program, your signed agreement when you accept the award also [satisfies](#) South Carolina's compulsory attendance requirements. Some families are choosing to educate at home and take advantage of ESTF to purchase curricular materials, technology, tutoring, individual classes, and educational therapies. We call this "unbundling" through the ESTF program. Your student would be legally classified as an unbundler rather than as a homeschooler. Educating at home under the ESTF Program is separate and distinct from homeschooling in South Carolina.

5. Can I attend a charter school and still be eligible for the SC ESTF program?

Charter schools are public schools, so the same rules apply as for public school attendance. Students at charter schools tend to use funds for transportation, instructional materials, tutoring, and disability services. All charters operating under a statewide authorizer would be allowable for ESTF students to attend. Charter schools can even register as an Education Service Provider to accept ESTF funds for transportation, extracurricular fees, and more.

There are some charter schools in the state that are authorized by local school districts rather than by a statewide authorizer. A few of those district-authorized charters do residentially zone students for the school, where it is the default public school for students in a particular geographic area even though it is a charter school. In those very limited situations, that charter school is considered the student's zoned public school, and that student would not be eligible for ESTF.

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Applications & Renewals

6. How do I apply for the Education Scholarship Trust Fund?

Applications for the next school year open November 1 each year for returning families (including siblings of existing program participants) and January 15 for new applicants. The January application window is for students with priority status that can be verified with documentation. Applicants who do not meet priority categories should not apply until the general application window that opens in February each year.

Students must reapply for the ESTF program each year. While previous recipients do have the opportunity to apply for the program before any new recipients, parents must be proactive and complete the application with all required documents in order to use their priority status to their advantage.

7. What are the 2027–2028 application windows?

It is important to note that there are no "priority students," only "priority windows." If a student who qualifies for priority consideration applies outside of their priority window, no consideration for a priority qualifier will be given.

- o **Window 1: Returning awarded students and their siblings.** Opens November 1, 2026, and closes January 14, 2027; priority will be given until Window 2 opens.
- o **Window 2: Priority students.** Open January 15 - February 15, 2027.
 - o Active-duty parent or guardian stationed in South Carolina; OR
 - o Household income at or below 300% FPL; OR
 - o Prior year public school attendance; OR
 - o Returning awarded student or sibling who missed Window 1
- o **Window 3: All eligible students** – any SC household with income at or below 500% FPL. Opens February 16, 2027.

2027-2028 Application Income Limits

Persons in Family / Household	2026 Federal Poverty Guideline	300% of Federal Poverty Guideline	500% of Federal Poverty Guideline
1	\$15,960	\$47,880	\$79,800
2	\$21,640	\$64,920	\$108,200
3	\$27,320	\$81,960	\$136,600
4	\$33,000	\$99,000	\$165,000
5	\$38,680	\$116,040	\$193,400
6	\$44,360	\$133,080	\$221,800
7	\$50,040	\$150,120	\$250,200
8	\$55,720	\$167,160	\$278,600
Each additional person	+\$5,680	+\$17,040	+\$28,400

Household size is determined based on a family's household size on Form 1040.

8. What do I need to apply?

You will be asked to provide the following documents:

- o **Proof of guardianship:** Birth certificate, tax return claiming dependents, adoption decree, etc.
- o **Proof of residency:** Driver's license or state-issued ID, utility bill, government-issued mail, or mortgage statement, etc.
- o **Proof of income:** Form 1040 Federal Tax Return for 2025 or 2026. If the applicant does not have a 1040, they can file taxes and receive their 1040 through an IRS trusted partner [found here](#). The IRS provides options for low-income families to file for free.
- o **Proof of age:** birth certificate, passport, student driver's license or state ID, adoption decree/paperwork.

To be considered, an application must include a document for each category listed above. The same document may satisfy more than one requirement, but it must be uploaded separately in each applicable section of the application.

Optional documents include documentation of active duty status (military orders are best) and verification of public school attendance during the previous school year (report card dated 2026-27). These are only needed if applicable to you. If you are claiming priority status based on prior public school attendance or based on military status, then these documents must be submitted for your application to be considered as part of the priority window.

Enrollment Verification

9. What is enrollment verification?

Enrollment verification is how the South Carolina Department of Education confirms that each ESTF student is enrolled in an eligible educational setting. As part of this process, families complete the Enrollment Verification form before each quarterly disbursement this school year. SCDE also uses other internal processes to check student enrollment and ensure program compliance.

Please complete the Enrollment Verification form once for each student you have in the ESTF program, and make sure all of the information you provide is complete and accurate. Scholarship funds for that quarter will not be deposited until the form is complete. What you report on this form is also used to determine your student's testing responsibilities. The deadline to complete this form is 30 days after it has been emailed to you. If the form is not completed within 30 days, the student will be removed from the program.

10. How and when do I complete the Enrollment Verification form?

This quick form confirms what school setting your student is attending at four points throughout the school year.

You will receive the Enrollment Verification form in two ways:

- o **By email**, within the week before each funding date
- o **In ClassWallet**, as a pop-up when you log in to your ClassWallet portal

Funding is distributed within a few business days after the form is completed. To receive each \$1,908.50 quarterly deposit on time, complete the form as soon as you receive it. Quarterly deposits are scheduled on or before **July 31, September 30, December 31, and February 28**.

It is important to monitor your email and complete the form promptly. Failure to complete this form within 30 days of receipt will result in the student's scholarship being removed.

11. Why can't I purchase a computer or other technology at the beginning of the school year?

At the beginning of each school year, computer hardware and technological device purchases are on hold until your student's initial enrollment verification for the year is complete. That process includes your individual enrollment verification form submission, as well as SCDE internal procedures to ensure students are not enrolled in their zoned public schools or other ineligible settings. This process is typically completed around October 1 each year.

Technology items prohibited until this process is complete include laptops, desktops, tablets, monitors, printers, scanners, and accessories such as keyboards, mice, styluses, and protective cases.

This hold happens only once a year. After your student's initial enrollment verification is complete, technology can be purchased through ClassWallet for the rest of the school year, subject to the price and frequency limits in the program handbook. Technology must be used primarily for the scholarship student's educational needs.

Using the Scholarship

12. What can the scholarship be used for?

All approved expenses and restrictions can be found in the [2026-2027 Participant Guide](#). Purchases must be made with eligible Education Service Providers through the ClassWallet platform, and providers must reapply each school year to remain with the program. Approved expense categories include:

- o **Tuition and fees at an ESTF-approved independent school**
- o **Tuition and fees for an approved online education service provider**, whether fulltime enrollment or individual courses
 - o Math
 - o English (including grammar, reading, and writing)
 - o Science
 - o Social Studies (including history)
 - o Foreign Language
 - o Fine Arts
- o **Testing and test preparation**
 - o National norm-referenced exams, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, or similar assessments
 - o Industry certification exams and college admission exams
 - o Test preparation classes and courses
- o **Textbooks and student workbooks**
 - o Math
 - o English/Grammar/Reading
 - o Science (including coding and engineering)
 - o Social Studies
 - o Foreign Language

- o Art
- o Music
- o **Reading books** (fiction and nonfiction, consistent with literature allowed in school libraries under S.C. Code § 59-31-15)
- o **Curriculum**
- o **Instructional materials and school supplies** for individual student use only (no bulk purchases)
- o **Computer hardware and technological devices**, within program limits
- o **Tutoring** (in-person or online) by an approved tutor (including tutoring camps)
 - o Math
 - o English
 - o Science (including coding and engineering)
 - o Social Studies (including history)
 - o Foreign Language
 - o Art
 - o Music
- o **Educational therapies**
 - o ABA Therapy
 - o Speech Therapy
 - o Physical Therapy
 - o Occupational Therapy
 - o Vision Therapy
 - o Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Therapies
 - o Learning disability evaluations
- o **Services provided by a student's non-resident public school or by a public charter school**
 - o Individual classes
 - o After-school tutoring
 - o Extracurricular activity fees or costs, such as music and sports
 - o Out-of-district fees
- o **Required school uniforms** that comply with the school's dress code (\$500 annual limit)

- o **Fees for transportation through an approved school or service provider.** This does not include gas mileage provided by a parent or guardian. \$3,000 annual limit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Transportation fees MUST be submitted as a separate transaction (not included on a tuition invoice). Invoices that combine transportation with other fees will be rejected.*

13. What can't the scholarship be used for?

The following are **not** approved expenses:

- o Food
- o Field trips
- o Fundraising
- o Graduation fees
- o Child care
- o Gaming computers and 3D printers
- o Sport/PE equipment
- o Clothing that is not a required school uniform
- o Summer camps that are not primarily educational in nature
- o Games that are not primarily educational in nature
- o Baby/toddler items
- o Craft kits
- o Play furniture, beanbags, non-education-related furniture items
- o Luxury items
- o Items purchased in bulk or for anyone other than the scholarship student
- o Duplicate services already offered as part of the student's school enrollment

Refer to the [Participant Guide](#) for the complete list of approved and non-approved expenses.

14. How will I be able to use my funds in ClassWallet?

Before you can use your funds, you must accept the ESTF Program [Affidavit](#) in ClassWallet. The affidavit appears once your student's account is funded (so you have to complete the enrollment verification form first to have the account funded – then, the affidavit will be available for you to accept once funds are loaded to the account). If you have more than one student in the program, you will accept the affidavit for each student. The affidavit just needs to be accepted once per year.

Once the affidavit is accepted, you can pay an approved provider's invoice using the Direct Pay (listed as "Pay Vendor") feature on your ClassWallet homepage, or make purchases through the ClassWallet Marketplace. The Marketplace includes school supplies, technology devices, and more!

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To pay a provider through Direct Pay, you will need an invoice from the provider that contains the following information:

- o Provider or school name (including address)
- o Student name
- o Parent name
- o Date of invoice
- o Unique invoice number
- o Date of service (e.g. “October 2026 Tuition,” “Tutoring Session on August 25, 2026, 3:00-4:00pm”)
- o What the payment is for (tuition, tutoring, etc.)
- o Total amount due

For tutoring, invoices must also include:

- o Subject(s) being tutored
- o Dates & times of each individual tutoring session

For transportation, invoices from individual transportation providers (rather than from a school) must include:

- o Dates and times of each transportation service
- o The “to” and “from” locations

For goods purchases, items not listed on the Education Service Provider’s website must include specific information, including:

- o Specific item name/model
- o Item category (book, game, curriculum, school supply, etc.)
- o Photos of items that are not made clear by the item name
- o If the invoice does not provide enough information for the reviewer to identify the item, the order may be rejected.

Please note:

- o Only invoices for services provided after July 1, 2026, will be approved in the 2026-27 school year.
- o At the beginning of the school year, computer hardware and technological device purchases are on hold until the SCDE completes enrollment verification checks for all students in the program.
- o The Department may reject invoices that are unreasonable.

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- o **Education service providers may *not* financially benefit from providing services to an immediate family member who is an ESTF recipient. Violation of this rule will result in the provider and student's removal from the ESTF program, and the SCDE reserves the right to refer violators to appropriate law enforcement.**

15. When will I get funding?

For 2026-2027, the scholarship of \$7,634 is paid in four quarterly deposits of \$1,908.50. Deposits are made on or before **July 31, September 30, December 31, and February 28**. The first deposit is available for use beginning July 31, 2026.

Each deposit is released a few days after you complete that quarter's Enrollment Verification form.

16. Do I have to pay out of pocket and then get reimbursed?

There is no reimbursement in the ESTF program. Your student's ESTF scholarship will be made available in a Digital Wallet provided by ClassWallet. Using this account, you will be able to make direct payments and purchases from approved Education Service Providers with your student's scholarship funds.

17. Where can I find a list of the approved schools and providers?

The list of approved Education Service Providers can be found [here](#). The providers on this list are approved by the South Carolina Department of Education to participate in the program. If your preferred school or provider is not on the list, please encourage them to [apply](#). Education Service Providers will be added on an ongoing basis, and the published list will be updated periodically.

All approved tutors must have at least a bachelor's degree, and educational therapists must hold a valid license in the therapy they provide. While the SCDE does verify background checks for providers, parents choose their providers and are responsible for deciding whether a provider is a good fit for their child.

18. What do I do if the Education Service Provider I want to use is not registered with the program?

Recruit them to apply! Parents are the best way to get the word out about the ESTF Program. If a school, tutor, therapist, or other provider you would like to use is not on the approved list, let them know about the program and encourage them to apply.

We accept provider applications on a rolling basis. Have the provider complete the [ESTF Education Service Provider application](#). Providers must submit their own applications; parents cannot apply on a provider's behalf. Once a provider is approved and registered with ClassWallet, you can use your scholarship funds to pay them.

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Providers must complete an annual renewal process to certify that they wish to continue in the ESTF program.

19. Are there limits to the prices of specific items that can be purchased?

Technology

- o At the beginning of the school year, technology purchases are on hold until the SCDE completes the enrollment verification process.
- o Laptop and desktop computers are limited to \$1,000 each, one every two years. You can purchase a laptop OR desktop, not both. Computers identified as "gaming" computers will not be approved.
- o Tablets are limited to \$1,000 each, one every two years.
- o Monitors and printers are limited to \$300 each, one of each every two academic years. 3D printers are not approved.
- o Printer toner cartridges are limited to \$100 per purchase and \$300 per academic year.
- o Headphones are limited to \$100 per year.
- o Document scanners are limited to one every two years, at a maximum price of \$300.
- o Laminators are limited to one every two years, at a maximum price of \$50.
- o Accessories such as a keyboard, mouse/mouse pad, stylus (e.g., Apple Pencil), and protective cases are allowed. Luxury/gaming models are not permitted, and these items may not be ordered in bulk.
- o Product warranties included as part of the purchase are approved.

Calculators

- o The total allowable cost for calculators is \$200 per year.
- o One graphing calculator may be purchased every two years.

Art supplies

- o Limited to \$500 per academic year. Art supplies are what a student would use for an art class. These include paint, paintbrushes, art kits, canvases, easels, drawing pads, specialized art pens or pencils, pipe cleaners, craft sticks, clay, charcoal, specialized glue and tape, art kits or supply boxes, and educational sticker art kits.
- o Normal school supplies like crayons, colored pencils, chalk, markers, highlighters, standard pens, paper, notebooks, scotch tape, small quantities of stickers, and standard glue are considered instructional materials and not counted as part of art supply limits.
- o Craft supplies, like beads, resin, epoxy, fabric and sewing kits, Cricut, jewelry kits, picture frames, bulk sticker books, and craft kits, are **not** permitted.

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Uniforms

- o Required school uniforms are limited to \$500 per year.

Transportation

- o Limited to \$3,000 per academic year and must be invoiced separately.

Student Furniture Items

- o Individual student desks up to \$300
- o Desk chair up to \$200
- o Bookcases and school storage up to \$300
- o Mobile whiteboards and easels up to \$300
- o Student furniture must be reasonable and primarily used for the student's education

20. When do my SC ESTF funds expire?

SC ESTF funds do not expire as long as the student remains eligible to participate in the program. For returning participants, any funds left in the account at the end of the school year roll over to the next school year.

Eligibility ends if the student graduates high school, moves out of South Carolina, transfers to a public school in their residential school district, or joins homeschool options 1, 2, or 3. If a student leaves or is removed from the program or fails to apply and submit the required documentation for the following year, any remaining funds are returned to the Trust Fund.

Assessments & Accountability

21. Is my child required to complete testing to continue in the program?

Yes. State law requires that “academic progress must be documented annually for each scholarship student.” Requirements depend on your child's grade:

Grades K5–2

An assessment is not required for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade for the 2026-2027 school year, but you must still submit **one** of the following as documentation of academic progress:

- o An approved formative assessment given three times (beginning, middle, and end of the school year)
- o An approved summative assessment taken at the end of the school year
- o A portfolio of work from the core subjects (ELA/reading/writing, math, science, and social studies)

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- o An approved descriptive progress report card. The report card must be approved by the Department and must show progress toward goals, standards, or benchmarks; a report card that only shows subject grades will not be accepted.

Again, only one of these options is needed for students in grades K5 – 2. If you do testing for a student in K5 – 2, a portfolio or report card is not needed.

Grades 3–8

Students must take **one** of the following:

- o An approved summative assessment at the end of the school year, **OR**
- o An approved formative assessment given **three times** (beginning, middle, and end of the school year)

Students in grades 4 and 6 must take an assessment that includes science. Note that a PSAT is not sufficient for middle school students.

Grades 9–12

Students must submit documentation every year. Approved options include:

- o An approved summative or formative assessment
- o A college admissions assessment (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PreACT, ACT, or CLT)
- o [End-of-Course Examination Program \(EOCEP\)](#) state tests: Algebra 1, English 2, Biology 1, or U.S. History and the Constitution
- o Advanced Placement (AP) exams
- o Career readiness assessments (WIN Work Ready) or [SCDE-approved career certification exams](#)

Dual enrollment courses do not count as academic progress documentation.

Approved Assessments

Formative assessments (grades K5–12; given three times per year):

- o STAR Reading and STAR Mathematics
- o MAP Growth and MAP for Primary Grades
- o i-Ready Diagnostic
- o Mastery View Predictive Assessment (formerly CASE Benchmarks)
- o DRC BEACON
- o Istation's ISIP (grades K–2)
- o FastBridge

Summative assessments (grades 3–12; given once at the end of the year):

- o SC Ready
- o Iowa Assessments

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- o Stanford Assessments
- o Classic Learning Test (CLT 3-8 for grades 3-8; CLT 10 for grades 9–10; CLT for grades 11–12)

ASSESSMENT PLAN: Each year, participating independent schools must identify which assessment or documentation option each student will use by September 1. Parent-reported testing families must submit their assessment plan by September 1 or within 15 days of being awarded from the waitlist.

22. What is a "parent-reported testing student"?

A parent-reported testing student is an ESTF student whose parent, rather than a school, is responsible for making sure the student takes the approved test for their grade level (or completes other approved documentation) and for submitting the results to the South Carolina Department of Education. Your student is a parent-reported testing student if they are:

- o An unbundler/educating at home;
- o Enrolled in a private online school or curriculum that is not registered with ESTF as a full-time school;
- o Participating in a course conducted through a co-op;
- o Attending a microschool that is not registered with ESTF as a full-time school;
- o Attending any private/independent school that is not or registered with ESTF as a full-time school;
- o Attending a private/independent school that offers a formative testing battery in which the student did not participate in all three testing administrations (in this scenario, the parent would need to ensure the student takes an end-of-year summative assessment to fulfill ESTF requirements).

The SCDE communicates information to parent-reported testing students based on what families submit on their Enrollment Verification form, so make sure you are providing the most accurate and up-to-date information on those forms to ensure you receive the correct emails.

If your student attends an approved Education Service Provider independent school full-time, the school shares responsibility for testing and should submit the scores on your behalf. Scores for students attending a public school or public charter school are submitted to the SC Department of Education through EdFi. The parent is responsible for ensuring the student is present on testing days and participating in all required testing for ESTF compliance.

23. I am a parent-reported testing family. What do I need to submit, and when?

1. Assessment plan (all parent-reported testing students)

Tell us how your student will meet the academic progress requirement this year: which test they will take, and whether it is a formative assessment taken three times (beginning, middle, and end of year) or a

summative assessment taken once at the end of the year. Students in K5–2 who are not testing must tell us what documentation they will submit instead.

The plan is due September 1 or, if you are awarded off the waitlist mid-year, within 15 days of your scholarship award. Parent-reported testing students should receive email updates with more information and the links to submit their assessment plan, but if you have not received this information when you should, please contact ESTFProgram@ed.sc.gov.

2. Formative assessment scores (if your student is testing three times)

If your student is taking a formative assessment (MAP Growth, STAR, i-Ready, FastBridge, Mastery View, or DRC BEACON), submit scores after each testing period:

- o **Beginning of year:** test taken on or before October 15; scores due **November 1**
- o **Middle of year:** test taken November 1 – January 15; scores due **February 1**
- o **End of year:** test taken February 1 – May 1; scores due **May 15**

Submit the score report that shows the student's scaled score, percentile, and grade equivalent (if the report includes it). See the [score report reference sheet](#) for examples.

3. Summative assessment (if your student is testing once at the end of the year)

If your student is taking one summative assessment at the end of the year (SC READY, Iowa, CLT, or Stanford 10), nothing else is due during the year once your assessment plan is submitted. The test must be completed by June 1, and scores are due to the SCDE by **June 15**.

Submit the score report that shows the student's scaled score, percentile, and grade equivalent (if the report includes it). See the [score report reference sheet](#) for examples.

4. Report card or portfolio (K5–2nd grade only)

If your K5–2 student is using a report card or portfolio instead of testing, submit it after each quarter of your school year. Q1 report card or portfolio is due by November 1, Q2 by February 1, Q3 by April 1, and final by June 15.

- o **Report card:** It must be a skills-based/descriptive report card, not just a numerical or letter grade. An approved descriptive report is a report showing how your student has worked toward goals, standards, benchmarks, milestones, or other growth measures. At the beginning of the school year, please submit an example report card to have your report card format approved; email ESTFProgram@ed.sc.gov if you need the link to submit your sample report card for review.
- o **Portfolio:** A student portfolio is a collection of student work and supporting documentation that demonstrates academic progress, skill development, and achievement over time. A portfolio may include completed assignments, writing samples, project work, assessment results, anecdotal notes, progress reports, and evidence of work toward specific standards, learning goals, or IEP/ISP

goals for students with disabilities. For ESTF purposes, portfolio documentation should show student progress from the beginning of the school year through the end of the school year in the required subject areas (English/language arts to include writing, mathematics, social studies, and science). K–2 portfolio should be a curated, easy-to-navigate collection of work samples, observations, and reflections that show a child’s growth, interests, and learning across domains. It works best when it’s personalized, authentic, and organized.

If your K5–2 student is taking an approved test, you do not need to submit report cards or portfolios as well. Report cards and portfolios are only accepted for students in grades K5–2 or for students with disabilities who are approved for Tier 4.

24. When are the testing windows and deadlines?

Assessment	Testing Window	Scores Due to SCDE
Formative – Beginning of Year	Aug 1 – Oct 15	Nov 1
Formative – Middle of Year	Nov 1 – Jan 15	Feb 1
Formative – End of Year	Feb 1 – May 15	May 15
Summative	Complete by June 1	June 15
SC READY	Apr 20 – May 30 (or last 20 school days, set by district)	June 15
EOCEP – Semester 1	Dec 1 – Jan 15	Jan 30
EOCEP – Semester 2	Apr 15 – June 1	June 15
AP Exams	May 4 – 15	When available
WIN Work Ready	Fall: Oct 27 – Nov 7 Spring: Mar 23 – Apr 17	June 15
PSAT/SAT	Varies	May 30
ACT or PreACT	Varies	May 30
Portfolio or report card (quarterly)	Q1 / Q2 / Q3/Q4	Nov 1 / Feb 1 / Apr 1
Portfolio or report card (final)	End of year	May 15 / June 15

All documentation for the school year is due by June 15. If your student misses an SC READY testing session, you must arrange for an approved summative assessment to be completed by June 1 (scores due June 15).

25. Does my child with a disability have to take an assessment?

Yes. **ALL** students in the ESTF program must submit an approved assessment or submit other approved documentation if permitted . Students with a documented disability are placed in one of four tiers:

- o **Tier One:** Standard curriculum; takes the regular assessment without accommodations.
- o **Tier Two:** Standard curriculum; takes the regular assessment with accommodations.

- o **Tier Three:** Standard curriculum; takes an alternate or abbreviated (shortened) assessment with accommodations.
- o **Tier Four:** Significant or severe cognitive disability with an alternate curriculum; submits a portfolio instead of an assessment.

A Tier Determination Worksheet must be completed before September 1 (or within 15 days of enrollment or a change in the student's plan), and the tier placement must be approved by the SCDE. Supporting records such as an IEP, ISP, 504 plan, or evaluation will be reviewed, and the SCDE will contact each family with the student's tier placement and help determine an assessment plan. Students may use testing accommodations that match the accommodations they receive in the classroom.

Please contact the ESTF team at ESTFProgram@ed.sc.gov to discuss the tier process. Please do not send disability documentation by email.

26. As a parent-reported testing family, how do I report my child's test and documentation information?

Contact ESTFProgram@ed.sc.gov to be sent the Testing Report Form submission link. Please do not send testing documents via email. Parents should pay close attention to the reporting deadlines for different types of assessments and documentation.

Score reports must:

- o Be submitted as a **PDF**
- o Show the student's name, grade, test date or testing window, scale score (SS), national percentile rank (NPR), and grade equivalent (GE)
- o Be named in this format: lastname,firstname,grade,testname,dateoftest (example: Smith,Maria,4,Iowa,5.12.2027)
- o See the [score report reference sheet](#) for examples.

27. My child's school is handling the testing. Do I still need to do anything?

Yes. Testing is a shared responsibility between the ESTF provider school and the parent. Even if your school already completed the testing, you still need to:

- o Confirm with the school that an approved assessment was given, and your child did not miss any parts of the test or test windows.
- o Complete any make-up exams necessary to ensure that your student has taken all required parts of the assessment.
- o If your independent school is registered as an Education Service Provider with ESTF, confirm that your student's school will be submitting the necessary assessment documentation to the SCDE.

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- o If your student's school is not a registered Education Service Provider with ESTF, they have no responsibility to ensure your student takes the correct test or to submit the scores to the SCDE. You as the parent need to make sure your student fulfills ESTF requirements and that scores are submitted to the SCDE.
- o If your student attends a traditional public or public charter school, their assessments will be automatically submitted to the SCDE. However, you should still make sure that your student was in attendance on all the testing days so that they have a full score to report and they are participating in an approved assessment for their grade.

28. My child joined the program or changed schools during the school year. What testing is required?

- o If your student did not complete any formative assessments before being accepted into the ESTF Program, they must complete an approved end-of-year assessment, as fewer than three formative assessment scores will not be accepted.
- o Formative scores from a previous school (including a public school) in the **same school year** can be combined with formative scores from the new school.
- o If the new school does not use formative assessments, your student will need to take an approved end-of-year summative assessment.

29. What happens if my child does not complete testing?

Any student who does not submit a required approved assessment report or documentation by the end-of-year deadline will be removed from the ESTF program for future years.

Withdrawals & Transfers

30. How do I withdraw from the SC ESTF program?

To withdraw from the ESTF Program, complete the **withdrawal link in your ClassWallet account**. Once the withdrawal is completed, your child will be removed from the program, and any remaining funds will be returned to the State.

If your child used ESTF funds or was in the program for at least one quarter, you are still responsible for submitting the required assessment or documentation for the time your child was in the program, **within 15 days of withdrawal**. Contact ESTFProgram@ed.sc.gov with questions or to have the withdrawal form link emailed to you.

31. What do I do if my student is transferring schools, or switching education programs?

If your child is transferring out of an approved ESTF Education Service Provider school, please notify that school, as they must complete the ESTF School Withdrawal Form and submit it to the ESTF Assessment and Accountability Coordinator within 15 days of the student's withdrawal date. This step should be completed no matter what type of school your student transfers into.

Upon transfer, please complete an updated Enrollment Verification form with the SCDE to reflect your student's new enrollment and make sure that future forms are reflective of the student's educational setting at the time of submission.

You will still be responsible for the test scores or documentation from each school for your child's academic progress. For example, if a student transferred into a school mid-year and only took the winter and spring administrations of MAP Growth, rather than the required three administrations of a formative assessment, their parent/guardian would need to procure a summative assessment outside of the school to ensure their student met the assessment requirement for the year to maintain program eligibility.

Contact Information

32. Who do I contact with questions?

ClassWallet

For help with your ClassWallet account, payments, invoices, or the Marketplace:

- o **Phone:** (877) 313-1299
- o **Email:** help@classwallet.com
- o **Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm EST; Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm EST

SC Department of Education ESTF Staff

For questions about eligibility, enrollment verification, assessments, and other program questions:

- o **Email:** ESTFProgram@ed.sc.gov
- o **Phone:** (803) 734-0009
- o **Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm EST; voicemails will be returned.

FACTS (ESTF Application)

For help with the ESTF application:

- o **Phone:** (866) 539-6359
- o **Online:** [FACTS Customer Support](#)

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