



Alabama School Eligibility Flyer

Eligible Schools

Alabama Eligible schools are private schools (grades K-12) that meet the following criteria:

- Physically located in Alabama.
- Must be eligible with the Department of Revenue-Visit
<http://revenue.alabama.gov/accountability/>
- Satisfies the private school requirements prescribed in Alabama state law.
- Annually administer either the state achievement tests or nationally recognized norm-referenced test to all participating students in grades that require testing under the accountability testing laws of the state for public schools.
- **A qualified nonpublic school shall be accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies:**
 1. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
 2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
 3. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
 4. Middle States Association of Colleges Schools (MSA)
 5. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)
 6. Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC)

If NOT so accredited, that satisfies all of the following conditions:

- Has been in existence for at least 3 years.
- Has daily attendance of at least 85 percent over a 2 year period.
- Has a minimum 180 day school year, or its hourly equivalent.
- Has a day length of at least six and one-half hours.
- Requires all students to take the Stanford Achievement Test, or its equivalent.
- Requires all candidates for graduation to take the American College Test for graduation
- Requires students in high school in grades 9 – 12 to earn a minimum of 24 Carnegie credits before graduating, including 16 credits in core subjects and additional requirements in health and physical education, fine arts, computer studies and foreign language.
- Does not subject special education students to the same testing or curricular requirements as regular education students if it is not required in the individual plan for the student.
- Maintains a current website that describes the school and the instructional program of the school.
- Annually affirms on forms prescribed by the SGO and the department its status financially and academically and provide other relative information as required by the SGO or as otherwise required in this act.

Download the Alabama Parent & School Handbook for more detailed information on our policies and procedures

Eligible Schools (continued):

- Maintains a current website that describes the school and the instructional program of the school.
- Annually affirms on forms prescribed by the SGO and the department its status financially and academically and provide other relative information as required by the SGO or as otherwise required in this act.

School will provide written verification to each SGO from which it accepts educational scholarship students and it will do the following:

- Comply with all health and safety laws or codes that otherwise apply to nonpublic schools
- Hold a valid occupancy permit if required by municipality.
- **Certify compliance with nondiscrimination policies set forth in 42 USC 1981.
- Conduct criminal background checks on employees and exclude from employment any person not permitted by state law to work in a public school and any person who may reasonably pose a threat to the safety of students.

** <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/uscode/42/21/I/1981>

*****An eligible household may not accept a tax credit scholarship for their student from more than one Scholarship Organization and/or from any other tax credit program for the same time period they have accepted an AAA scholarship.*****

Parental Tuition Payments

Parental tuition payments are necessary when an eligible private school's tuition and fees total *more* than the awarded scholarship. The household is responsible for the additional charges that exceed the awarded scholarship.

At times, the school may award a supplemental scholarship to the household, but if this does not occur, the difference is the sole responsibility of the household. NO EXCEPTIONS.

All households must remain current with their payments to the school for any fees owed by the household, not including the scholarship payments. Failure to pay, or make arrangements to pay, a balance owed may result in the school suspending or expelling your student. If the student is expelled they will no longer be eligible for the scholarship.

AAA Scholarship Foundation will not renew or transfer scholarships while money is owed to a school.

Scholarship Payments

By accepting the scholarship student(s) and scholarship payment(s) the school agrees to repay any incorrectly made or overpayment of funds on behalf of the student(s), regardless of the reason. Failure to return the funds to AAA could lead to loss of eligibility as a participating school in the scholarship program and/or may lead to legal ramifications relating to the scholarship laws. The household is responsible for any balance of tuition/fees not covered by the scholarship.

Scholarships are paid in four installments throughout the school year. The payment calendar can be found at http://aaascholarships.org/School_Information.html

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Depositing Scholarship Checks

Schools must process and deposit the checks for scholarship students promptly. Upon receipt of a scholarship check, the school must immediately stamp/write the first three of the following lines on each check before the Parent/Guardian signs the check. The back of the check should read:

**For Deposit Only
(Name of School's Bank)
Into the account of (Name of School/Account Number)
Parent Signature**

The school should notify the household that the scholarship check has arrived and have them come in to "restrictively endorse" the check to the school. Failure of the designated parent to sign the check within five business days of being notified by the school or within the time specified by school policy, whichever is less, may result in the loss of the scholarship.

The check will be made payable to the name of Parent/Guardian A listed on the application. That individual MUST be the person who endorses the scholarship check when received by the school. ONLY the individual on the check can endorse the back of the check. If a household needs the parent listed to be changed they must make a *request to AAA in writing to change the name to the other parent/guardian.*

NO POWER OF ATTORNEY OR OTHER TRANSFER OF SIGNATURE AUTHORITY IS ALLOWED.

The scholarship checks may not leave the possession of the school. Students may not bring scholarship checks home for parent endorsement (signature).

Failure by the school to follow these procedures may result in loss of eligibility as a participating school for the Scholarship program, legal ramifications with the state attorney's office, and reimbursement in full of any overpaid monies due to AAA.

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