



GEORGIA

Parent and School Handbook

Georgia Private School Tax Credit

Scholarship Program

School Year 2024-2025

AAA Scholarship Foundation – Georgia
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Parent and School Handbook - Georgia

AAA Scholarship Foundation (AAA), a private non-profit organization, is an approved Georgia Student Scholarship Organization (SSO). AAA awards annual scholarships to eligible students entering eligible grade levels from eligible households to help them attend an eligible private school of their choice. The private school scholarships are for tuition and fees. An AAA family may NOT accept a scholarship from a state voucher or other Tax Credit Scholarship program for the same time period they have accepted an AAA Scholarship.

AAA scholarships ARE NOT TUITION VOUCHERS. Tuition vouchers are government-funded, and the payments come from the State. AAA Scholarships are privately funded from contributions made by donors to AAA. The payments for students receiving Georgia Private School Scholarships come from the SSO that serves their household.

DO NOT enroll your child into a private school until you have actually received an email with an AAA Scholarship Award Letter! Funding is not guaranteed. If you enroll your child before receipt of a Scholarship Award Letter, you will be responsible for their tuition and fees, and you may not qualify for future scholarship funding.

Please remember that in applying for and if accepting a scholarship, you have agreed to the below statements in the Certification and Authorization Signature section of the application:

- ✓ I certify that the information provided on the application and all supporting documentation submitted at any time is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I give information that is not true or if I withhold information and my student(s) receive a scholarship for which they are not eligible, I can be lawfully punished for fraud, and the scholarship will be denied or revoked.
- ✓ I certify that no parent/guardian of a student on this application is not an owner, operator, principal, or person with equivalent decision-making authority of the eligible private school, which my student will attend.
- ✓ I understand that any information I provide at any time will be verified, which may include computer file matching, public records search, IRS transcripts, and that I may be required to provide other information and/or documentation.
- ✓ I authorize the release of personal, financial, and educational information for the purpose of determining eligibility and for research.
- ✓ I understand that AAA Scholarship Foundation does not discriminate because of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, nationality, political belief, sexual orientation, or gender identification/expression.
- ✓ I authorize AAA Scholarship Foundation to make this form and the information therein available to the appropriate state agencies as required by the law governing the scholarships.
- ✓ I agree to follow the rules and responsibilities as they apply to the program as set forth in the Parent and School Handbook, available online at www.aaascholarships.org.
- ✓ I understand if I am deemed eligible and am awarded a scholarship, that I am not automatically entitled to a scholarship in following years.
- ✓ I understand that it is my responsibility to reapply and document my eligibility whenever I am required to if I accept a scholarship.
- ✓ I understand that it is my right and responsibility to read and understand a private school's admission and conduct policy before requesting to enroll my child(ren) into an eligible private school.
- ✓ I understand if I enroll my student(s) into a private school before receipt of a Scholarship Award Letter and School Commitment Form (SCF), I will be responsible for their tuition, and the student(s) may not qualify for future scholarship funding.
- ✓ I understand funding is not guaranteed.

Schools and families can communicate easily with our team through the online Scholarship Management Platform (SMP) for the 2024-2025 school year. The online system will be quick, easy, and convenient! Upon completion of your application, your scholarship determination will be available to you using the SMP. You will now be able to accept your scholarship and submit the SCF online.

Your household will only receive the scholarship determination via email (NOT in the mail as you have in the past). Please be sure AAA has your current email address to avoid missing any important emails from us.

Scholarship Awarding Procedure

Households must first complete the AAA application process and be determined eligible. Applications are available on the AAA website beginning mid-March and remain available until funding is determined exhausted by AAA.

Households that are determined eligible AND have received funding for the upcoming school year will receive a Scholarship Award Letter in an email directly from AAA.

The use of a scholarship cannot be postponed. The household must find an eligible private school for their student(s) as soon as they receive the email with a Scholarship Award Letter. Failure to meet the deadline on the award letter will result in the forfeiture of the awarded scholarship.

A Scholarship Award Letter will be emailed to the recipient.

It is the parent/guardian's right and responsibility to read and understand a private school's admission and conduct policy before requesting to enroll their child(ren) in an eligible private school. The parent/guardian should not rely solely on the fact that a school meets the state eligibility requirements to determine whether the school is appropriate for their child(ren). Likewise, parents/guardians should be aware that private schools set their own admission and conduct policies and are not required to enroll a student solely on the basis of their eligibility for a scholarship.

The parent/guardian will click on the Find a School button to start the School Commitment Form (SCF) with the school of their choice. The school will receive a notification to start the School Commitment Form (SCF) for the student(s) and submit it back to the parent for review. The parent will receive a notification from the school to review and submit to AAA for approval.

Schools should not accept students without an SCF unless the household: 1) is willing to self-pay their tuition until they are awarded a scholarship and 2) will self-pay if they are not funded and 3) is aware that enrolling in the private school may result in the student not being eligible in future years.

If a household receives an SCF in error or their eligibility is revoked, the school that has enrolled the student will be notified as soon as possible. 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.

WAITLIST STUDENTS

Households that document eligibility but are placed on a waitlist DO NOT have a scholarship unless they receive a Scholarship Award Letter later during the school year.

Each year, there is a certain amount of funding available and many families that apply for the scholarship; we cannot control how many applicants apply. Therefore, funding may run out, and approved scholarship applicants may be placed on a waitlist.

If additional funding becomes available, scholarships will be released to waitlisted students on a first- completed, first- awarded basis.

Participating students withdraw for various reasons, resulting in vacancies to be filled by waitlisted students. We cannot predict the number or timing of these openings. Scholarships are not guaranteed.

Scholarship Awarding Priority

First Priority (Renewals): Renewal students are those who received an AAA scholarship for the previous year, meet the current eligibility criteria (Page 5), and meet all deadlines for renewal priority. Funding is not guaranteed.

Second Priority (Add-Ons): Add-On siblings of renewal students who received an AAA scholarship for the previous year, meet the current eligibility criteria (Page 5), and meet all deadlines for renewal priority. Funding is not guaranteed.

Third Priority (Waitlist): Students who met the prior eligibility criteria but were put onto a waiting list due to lack of funding, who meet the current eligibility criteria listed above and meet all deadlines for waitlist priority. Funding is not guaranteed.

Fourth Priority (New, Transfers, and Late Applicants): New and transferring household applicants who meet current eligibility criteria (Page 6) and priority students who have missed the priority deadlines are awarded on a first completed, first awarded basis. Funding is not guaranteed.

Renewal Scholarship Eligibility

Scholarships may be renewed every year through 12th grade as long as the household and student(s) continue to meet the conditions of eligibility.

To be eligible for a renewal scholarship, all of the following requirements must be met:

1. The household must complete the renewal application and submit it to AAA along with **ALL** required supporting documentation listed on the application BY THE STATED DEADLINE. Failure to meet all renewal deadline requirements will result in the household losing their renewal priority and may result in the household not receiving a scholarship even if they eventually complete the required process.
2. The household must have been actively using their AAA scholarship in the prior school year.
3. The student(s) must be between 4-20 years old on September 1st, by law.
4. The student must be included in the household members' clarification section of the application
5. The household must be current with debt to the private school(s) attended during the prior school year.
6. The household must meet the income guidelines (*see chart on Page 6*).
7. The household must not have been disqualified/revoked from the program for any reason, including the internal audit process.

Add-On Siblings Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible for an add-on sibling scholarship (sibling to a renewal student), all of the following requirements must be met:

1. The household must complete the scholarship application and submit it to AAA along with **ALL** required supporting documentation listed on the application BY THE STATED DEADLINE.
2. The student(s) must have been included in the household member's clarification section of the application which qualified for the scholarship in the prior year.
3. Students must be between 4-20 years old on **September 1st**, by law
4. The student(s) must be:
 - Entering Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K4), Kindergarten (K) or First (1st) Grade. Public school attendance is not required
 - OR**
 - Entering 2nd-12th grade and have attended six (6) weeks at a Georgia public school, by law
 - OR**
 - Zoned for a low-performing public school specified by law. Go to page 12 to see low-performing Elementary, Middle, and high school scores. Visit https://ccrpi.gadoe.org/Reports/Views/Shared/_Layout.html to search for the assigned low-performing public school in your district.
 - OR**
 - The victim of a documented case of school-based abuse in a Georgia public school
 - OR**
 - Attended a home school program the entire school year for the previous year. Home school documentation is Required (*declaration of intent to home school*).
5. The household must meet the income guidelines (*see chart on Page 6*).
6. The household must not have been disqualified/revoked from the program for any reason, including the internal audit process.

Transfer Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible to transfer your current tax-credit scholarship to AAA (within Georgia only), all of the following requirements must be met:

1. The household must complete the scholarship application and submit it to AAA along with **ALL** required supporting documentation listed on the application BY THE STATED DEADLINE. Failure to meet all renewal deadline requirements will result in the household losing their transfer priority and may result in the household not receiving a scholarship even if they eventually complete the required process.
2. The student(s) must have been actively using a Georgia tax credit scholarship through the end of the prior year.
3. The student(s) must be between 4-20 years old on September 1st, by law.
4. The household must meet the income guidelines (*see chart on Page 6*).
5. The household must be current with debt to the private school(s) attended during the prior school year.

- The household must not have been disqualified/revoked from the program for any reason, including the internal audit process.

New Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible for a new scholarship, all of the following requirements must be met:

- The household must complete the scholarship application and send it along with **ALL** required supporting documentation listed on the application BY THE STATED DEADLINE.
- The student(s) must be:
 - Entering Pre-Kindergarten(Pre-K4), Kindergarten(K) or First (1st) Grade. Public school attendance is not required.
OR
 - Entering 2nd–12th grade and have attended six (6) weeks at a Georgia public school, by law
OR
 - Zoned for a low-performing public school specified by law. Go to page 12 to see low-performing Elementary, Middle, and high school scores. Visit https://ccrpi.gadoe.org/Reports/Views/Shared/_Layout.html to search for the assigned low-performing public school in your district.
OR
 - Documented bullying of the student in Georgia public school.
OR
 - Attended a home school program the entire school year for the previous year. Home school documentation is Required (*declaration of intent to home school*).
- Students must meet the age eligibility for Georgia. Student(s) must be between 4-20 years old on **September 1st**, by law.
- The household must meet the income guidelines (*see chart on Page 6*).
- The household must not have been disqualified/revoked from the program for any reason, including the internal audit process.
- The household must be residents of Georgia to apply for a scholarship.

Household Income Levels for Scholarship Eligibility

The financial eligibility guidelines change each year and are based on household size and income. The household size includes but is not limited to the total of ALL the people living in the household.

Household income includes, but is not limited to, ALL the income and assistance received for everyone who lives in the household including but not limited to: Gross Income Earned, Social Security Income/Disability for every household member (including all children), Child Support Received, any other non-taxable income or assistance, along with various other categories including other money that may be available. Business losses must be adjusted to zero, and therefore the total income will be adjusted accordingly to determine household eligibility.

AAA will verify the household’s eligibility through the application/renewal process. Completing the application/renewal process is the responsibility of the parent/guardian, not the private school.

2024-2025 Georgia Household Income/Financial Resources Eligibility Table

- Household size:** count all the people who live in your household (regardless of their relationship to you); this is your household size.
 - Household income:** add together ALL the **2023** annual gross earnings and assistance (taxable and non-taxable) for everyone in the household; this is your household income.
 - Use these two numbers to look at the chart below.** Your household income must be at or below the listed value for your household size in order to apply.
- Note: Any business losses will be adjusted to zero, and therefore the total income will be adjusted accordingly to determine household eligibility.*

Household Size	NEW Max 2023 Income Awards Up to: \$7,500.00	RENEWAL, ADD-ON & TRANSFER Max 2023 Income Awards Up to: \$7,500.00	RENEWAL, ADD-ON, TRANSFER & NEW Max 2023 Income Awards Up to: \$5,625.00	RENEWAL, ADD-ON, TRANSFER & NEW Max 2023 Income Awards Up to: \$3,750.00	RENEWAL, ADD-ON, TRANSFER & NEW Max 2023 Income Awards Up to: \$1,875.00
1	\$27,861	\$30,120	\$33,885	\$37,650	\$45,180
2	\$37,814	\$40,880	\$45,990	\$51,100	\$61,320
3	\$47,767	\$51,640	\$58,095	\$64,550	\$77,460
4	\$57,720	\$62,400	\$70,200	\$78,000	\$93,600
<i>Each additional</i>	\$9,953	\$10,760	\$12,105	\$13,450	\$16,140

Scholarship Funding Amounts

Households qualifying for the maximum scholarship (100%) are awarded up to the amounts listed below or the cost of tuition and fees, whichever is less, per student, per year to attend the eligible private school of their choice (see examples on page 7).

GEORGIA	100% award	75% award	50% award	25% award
Renewal Households Maximum Income	Up to 200% of poverty	201% to 225% of poverty	226% to 250% of poverty	251% to 300% of poverty
New Households Maximum Income	Up to 185% of poverty	186% to 225% of poverty	226% to 250% of poverty	251% to 300% of poverty
Scholarship award per student, per year	Up to \$7,500 or tuition and fees, whichever is less	Up to \$5,625 or tuition and fees, whichever is less	Up to \$3,750 or tuition and fees, whichever is less	Up to \$1,875 or tuition and fees, whichever is less

AAA's scholarship funding calculation is based on a 36-week school year beginning on the first day of school, as listed on the SCF. School breaks of one week for Thanksgiving, two weeks for winter, and one week for spring are factored into the calculation as well. Every school has different calendars and different breaks. AAA does not try to match its scholarship funding calculation to any specific school calendar.

If the student remains in the school the entire year, the scholarship is paid in four installments throughout the 36-week school year. The payment calendar is available at <https://www.aaascholarships.org/schools/>.

If a student attends an eligible private school for a period of less than a full school year, the scholarship funding value will be prorated. For example, if a student's maximum scholarship award is \$7,500 but begins attending 21 weeks after the beginning of the school year, the calculated value of those 21 weeks missed (\$4,375) will be subtracted from the maximum scholarship award to determine the prorated scholarship funding value (\$7,500 - \$4,375 = \$3,125).

If the student transfers during the school year, AAA will determine the prorated amount owed to/from the private school for tuition. The remaining balance of the student's scholarship will then be available for use at a new eligible private school if the student remains on the scholarship. See page 10 for details on transferring schools.

Schools may not charge a different rate for scholarship students. The published tuition schedule must apply to all students enrolled, whether they are on AAA scholarships or if the household is paying for their tuition and fees privately. Scholarship students are allowed to receive private scholarships or discounts to assist with paying their portion of the financial responsibility to the school.

Scholarship Funding Examples

Here are examples of how we determine the scholarship funding values for a **Georgia** student:

	Example #1 Cost to attend the school is less than 100% award (\$7,500)	Example #2 Cost to attend the school is equal to 100% award (\$7,500)	Example #3 Cost to attend the school is greater than 50% award (\$3,750)	Example #4 Cost to attend the school is greater than 100% award (\$7,500)
Maximum Scholarship Value <i>(based on income qualification)</i>	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$7,500
Tuition	\$2,800	\$6,250	\$4,000	\$8,000
+ Additional school-related fees	\$550	\$1,250	\$750	\$1,800
= Total Tuition and school-related fees	\$3,350	\$7,500	\$4,750	\$9,800
Total Paid by AAA	\$3,350	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$7,500
Parent Responsibility	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,300

Scholarship Acceptance

Scholarships are not awarded to schools. Scholarships are awarded to eligible households for eligible students. The household decides which eligible private school to send their student(s). Failure to enroll the student in an eligible private school will result in the loss of the scholarship.

Households that are determined eligible AND have been awarded funding for the upcoming school year will receive a Scholarship Award Letter in an email directly from AAA. There will be a deadline to submit the SCF. The use of a scholarship cannot be postponed to a later time (e.g., mid-year or an upcoming year). The household must complete the SCF to the eligible private school online where they have chosen to enroll their child(ren) as soon as they receive a scholarship award letter and SCF.

The parent/guardian will click on the **Find a School** button to start the School Commitment Form (SCF) with the school of their choice. 1)The school will receive a notification to begin the School Commitment Form (SCF) for the student(s) and submit it back to the parent for review. 2)The parent will receive a notification from the school to review and submit to AAA for approval.

It is the responsibility of the household to determine if the chosen private school is meeting their student(s) needs. If the private school is not meeting their needs, the household should transfer their student at any time during the school year or for the next school year if deemed eligible to renew. The scholarship follows the student(s) to any eligible private school as long as the household is eligible. For information on changing schools during the school year (see the "Student Transfer Procedure" on page 10).

Scholarship payments will be sent via direct deposit to the eligible school selected by the household. (See page 9 for details.)

Private School Eligibility Requirements

Georgia Eligible schools are private schools (grades pre-K4-12) that meet the following criteria as determined by the Georgia Department of Education (DOE):

- Accredited or in the process of becoming accredited by one or more accreditation agencies:
 1. The Georgia Accrediting Commission;
 2. The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;
 3. The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council;
 4. The Association of Christian Schools International;
 5. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
 6. The Southern Association of Independent Schools;
 7. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
 8. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
 9. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
 10. The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;
 11. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges; and/or
 12. The Alabama Independent School Association.
- Physically located in Georgia;
- *Adheres to the provisions of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and
- Satisfies the private school requirements prescribed in Georgia state law.
- Private schools cannot be accredited as a Non-Traditional Education Center (serving home-schooled students)

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/specialtopics/tanf/crrequirements/vi.html>*

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 non-tax credit 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 amounts 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 the 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 unless a current payment plan is in place.

Direct Deposit (Schools)

Starting this 2024-2025 academic year, the private schools will receive ACH payments instead of paper checks. This improvement will eliminate the requirement for schools to obtain parent signatures, as parents will approve the payment ahead of time by logging into the SMP portal and completing their part of the Verification Report process.

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 generally paid in four installments throughout the 36-week school year (see Scholarship Funding Amounts on page 7 for exceptions). The payment calendar can be found at <https://www.aaascholarships.org/parents/georgia/>

Payment Verification Reports will be online, and the school and parent must complete the process to receive scholarship payments. Before each installment is processed, verification reports will be online for the school and parent to complete, listing the student's name and scholarship payment amount. The SCHOOL must 1) verify each student's information, 2) indicate each student's absences to date, and 3) state whether the household is current with any monies privately owed to the school. The school submit the verification report online. Schools must explain any "no" answers, on this report and/or attach documentation. **View Tutorial:** <https://www.aaascholarships.org/parents/video-tutorials/>

The PARENT/GUARDIAN A will 1) receive a notification by email to review the verification report and will have to login to the SMP 2) will click Verification Report Active for the individual student.

View Tutorial: <https://www.aaascholarships.org/parents/video-tutorials/>

A payment is issued for each scholarship student attending a school, even if multiple students are from the same household. Scholarship payments will be direct deposited to the eligible school selected by the household.

Student withdrawal may result in the school being required to reimburse AAA for the difference between actual time period attended, and actual scholarship funds received to date. For information on changing schools during the year, see the "Student Transfer Procedure" on page 10 of this handbook. The scholarship only pays for services rendered.

If any student receiving an AAA scholarship also receives a scholarship from another Scholarship Tuition Organization or a State Funded Scholarship, the school/guardian must contact AAA, and the school must return the un-cashed check to AAA immediately. Failure to report such situations to AAA may result in a school's loss of eligibility to enroll new scholarship students and/or to legal ramifications relating to the scholarship laws.

If a school receives a payment for a student who is not currently attending their school, they must refund AAA immediately unless it is the final "exit" payment as determined by AAA. If the student has expenses over and above tuition for actual attendance at their school before the receipt of payment, it is the household's responsibility to pay the debt. If pro-rated monies are owed to the school, a payment will be issued following receipt of the Student Withdrawal Form (SWF).

Failure to refund monies to AAA in these situations could lead to loss of eligibility as a participating school in the AAA scholarship program and/or may lead to legal ramifications relating to the scholarship laws.

Student Transfer Procedures

One of the benefits of private education is that if the parent/guardian is not satisfied with a school, they may choose another one.

A student's scholarship may be transferred to another eligible in-state private school at any time during the year. However, AAA will not renew or transfer scholarships while money is owed to a previous school unless a current payment plan is in place.

If the parent/guardian plans to withdraw a student during the school year, the parent/guardian should notify the school two weeks prior to withdrawal.

1. How to transfer a scholarship during the school year:

- a. The school that the student is leaving must complete a Student Withdrawal Form (SWF) online within **5 business days** of being notified that the student is leaving. AAA will not transfer a scholarship until the school confirms that: 1) the household has no outstanding balance owed or 2) that a payment plan is in place.
- b. Parent/Guardian A is responsible for finding another eligible private school within **5 business days** after exiting the previous school. Using your SMP account you must click on the **Find a School** button and then click on the private school of your choice to begin the SCF process. Any SCFs that reach AAA after the cut-off date may result in the **forfeit** of the scholarship. *Example: If the student's last day is on a Friday at **SCHOOL A**, the new SCF must be submitted to AAA by **SCHOOL B** no later than the following Friday.*
- c. The new school will receive a notification to start the School Commitment Form (SCF) for each student and submit it back to the parent for review. The parent will receive a notification from the school to review and submit to AAA for approval.
- d. AAA will complete the transfer process when the Withdrawal and SCF is received. This process may include: 1) a final payment to the school that is being exited, or 2) a request for refund of overpayment from the school that is being exited for the student transferring.

2. How to transfer a scholarship for the following school year during the renewal process:

- a. The household must complete the renewal process.
- b. Upon receipt of the SCF, the household must find the eligible private school of their choice online, be it the same as the previous year or another eligible school.
- c. The school will receive a notification to start the School Commitment Form (SCF) for the student(s) and submit it back to the parent for review. The parent will receive a notification from the school to review and submit to AAA for approval.

If a student returns to public school at any time while utilizing the scholarship, the student will lose their scholarship. The household will be required to reapply and document eligibility to qualify in future years.

Student Behavior

Scholarship students must follow all academic and discipline policies of the individual private school. Schools may expel or suspend students if their policies are not followed.

If a student is expelled from school, he or she will lose their scholarship and will not be eligible to renew. This will not affect the scholarships of any siblings.

Students expelled from public school are not eligible for a scholarship.

Scholarship students assigned by the courts to the juvenile justice system will immediately lose their scholarship and will be required to reapply and document eligibility to qualify in future years.

Student Attendance

AAA Scholarship students may not be absent more than 18 days during the 180-day school year ("90 percent attendance"). Failure to be present for this minimum amount of time may result in the loss of the scholarship. If you plan to withdraw your student during the school year, please notify the school at least two (2) weeks prior to withdrawal.

Authorized Scholarship Deferment

In rare circumstances, the use of a scholarship may be deferred for a maximum of 30 days per school year if the student has a valid reason to be temporarily unable to attend school as determined by AAA on a case-by-case basis.

To request a deferment, the parent must notify AAA by clicking on the Request Deferral button in the online Student's Profile within 5 business days that they wish to temporarily postpone using their child's scholarship, including detailed documentation as to why the child is unable to attend school and the beginning and end dates for the requested deferment period. AAA's approval or denial of the request will be provided via the online SMP and the parent will be notified to check their online account.

During the deferment period, no scholarship payments will be made for the student. Additionally, the student may not attend a public school. Otherwise, the public school disqualification will take effect, and the scholarship will be considered a forfeit. In a penalty situation, such as a suspension, the parent may be responsible for payments due to the school during the deferment period.

Once the student returns to the private school, the parent must notify AAA within 5 business days following expiration of the deferment period or the date the child returned, whichever is less. At that time, scholarship payments will resume as normal.

If, within 5 business days after the deferment period has passed, the parent has not notified AAA that their child has returned to the private school, their child's scholarship will be considered a forfeit. If any, a final scholarship payment will be made to the school for actual services rendered to the student before the first day of the deferment period.

Loss of A Scholarship

A household will lose their scholarship for any of the following:

1. Providing fraudulent information or withholding information on the application or at any time (pg. 3)
2. Enrolling the student in a school that is not eligible (pg. 9) or a public school.
3. The student is expelled from school (pg. 10)
4. The student is not maintaining 90 percent attendance for the entire school year (pg. 11)
5. Not completing the payment verification report within 5 business days of being notified by the school or within the time specified by school policy, whichever is less (pg. 9)
6. The household owes a school money or is not maintaining an agreed-upon payment schedule (pg. 9)
7. Not completing the renewal process by the deadline (pg. 5)
8. Exceeding the household financial eligibility guidelines (pg. 7)
9. Failing to complete the internal audit process, if required
10. Parent/Guardian is the owner, operator, principal or person with equivalent decision-making authority of an eligible private school, regardless of where the student attends (pg. 3)
11. Otherwise violating the conditions of the scholarship program

Low-Performing School Criteria

The Georgia Private School Tax Credit Law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2A-1 through § 20-2A-7) allows student scholarship organizations (SSOs) to provide scholarships for eligible students to attend accredited private schools. House Bill 283 (2013) waived the enrollment and six-week public school attendance eligibility requirements if students would be assigned to a “low-performing school” if they attended a public school. The bill also requires the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) to determine a list of “low-performing schools” for this specific purpose.

For the purposes of House Bill 283, GOSA defines a “low-performing school” as a school that has a College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score that falls at or below the 25th percentile in its grade cluster (Elementary, Middle, and High School clusters).

Based on 2018-2019 CCRPI scores, schools with the following scores are “low-performing schools” for the purposes of this law (Updated December 2, 2019):

- Elementary Schools: 2018-2019 CCRPI score of 66.1 or less
- Middle Schools: 2018-2019 CCRPI score of 66.3 or less
- High Schools: 2018-2019 CCRPI score of 66.2 or less

Low-Performing School Criteria - <https://gosa.georgia.gov/accountability/sso-low-performing-school-criteria>

Change of Contact Information

If there is a change of address, telephone, cell phone, or E-mail address, the parent/guardian must immediately notify AAA. It is not the school's responsibility to notify AAA that the household's address has changed. We will not accept any change of contact information for the household from the school.

AAA must be notified if the household is moving regardless of whether it is within the area or outside the area the household currently resides. A scholarship can be transferred to any eligible private school in the state the scholarship was awarded, as long as eligibility is maintained.

Failure to inform AAA of the household's current address may result in the household not receiving important, time-sensitive communication from AAA and may result in the loss of the scholarship. It is very important that AAA be able to reach you!

Reach us at Georgia@aaascholarships.org or 888-707-2465.

Tutorial Information

PARENTS: <https://www.aaascholarships.org/parents/georgia/>

VIDEO TUTORIALS: <https://www.aaascholarships.org/parents/video-tutorials/>

SCHOLARSHIP MANAGEMENT PLATFORM (“SMP”)

Our new SMP makes it SiMPle and convenient to manage your student’s scholarship with AAA. You will receive an onboarding email inviting you to create a secure SMP account once a determination has been made about your student’s eligibility.

[Here is a link to log back into our online SMP](#) after accepting our onboarding invitation.

If you are not able to find your child’s school on the SMP, please contact them to ask if they have responded to the AAA email invitation. The school must complete their onboarding process before parents can choose them on the SMP.

This current year, you will not lose your child’s scholarship for missing an SMP deadline, however, we do ask that you contact your child’s school to ask if they have completed the AAA onboarding process so that your child’s scholarship payments are not delayed.

Once the school has completed that process, they will be available for you to select. If they’re having trouble with that process, we ask that they please send an email with details of the problem to us at help@aaascholarships.org.

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2024-2025 Parent and School Handbook