

Special Needs Scholarship Program 2018-19 School Year Information for Parents

The **Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP)** allows a student with a disability, who meets certain eligibility requirements, to receive a state-funded scholarship to attend a private school that is located in Wisconsin and participating in the SNSP. The school receives a state aid payment for each eligible student.

The SNSP website has a document comparing the rights of students with disabilities and their families under state and federal special education laws to their rights under the SNSP. The website also includes frequently asked questions and additional information about the SNSP.

Student Eligibility

A student with a disability may be eligible to participate in the SNSP for the 2018-19 school year if **all** of the following apply:

- IEP or Services Plan: The student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or services plan that meets program requirements.
- Wisconsin Resident: The student resides in Wisconsin.

IEP or Services Plan Requirements

Implementation. SNSP schools are required to implement the IEP or services plan of SNSP students as modified by agreement between the SNSP school and the student's parent/guardian (hereafter "parent"). The school and the parent must sign this agreement before the student will be eligible for SNSP payments.

Quarterly Reports. SNSP schools are required to provide SNSP parents with quarterly reports about the implementation and progress of their student's modified IEP or services plan and the student's academic progress.

Reevaluation. In order for a student to be able to continue his/her participation in the SNSP, the student must be made available for an IEP team reevaluation by the resident school district within sixty (60) days of a reevaluation request being made. Resident school districts may only make a reevaluation request once every three (3) years for each SNSP student.

If a SNSP student is determined to no longer have a disability during an IEP team reevaluation, the student will receive a partial scholarship in the following school year. A partial scholarship student is able to continue to participate in the SNSP at the same school, but the SNSP scholarship will be at a lower rate.

How to Apply

The SNSP student application is a paper application that must be submitted directly to the SNSP school that you would like for your child to attend. SNSP student applications can be submitted to SNSP schools for the 2018-19 school year from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. A student application is not complete until all of the following documents have been given to the SNSP school:

- 1) SNSP student application.
- 2) Documentation verifying the family's current address.

SNSP schools must give student applicants a copy of the school's special education profile. The student application, list of SNSP schools and school special education profiles are available at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/special-needs-scholarship/student-applications-18-19>.

SNSP schools will accept SNSP students in the order that complete applications are received. If a school receives more applications than the number of available SNSP seats, the school will notify students of their place on a waiting list.

Schools may choose to give preference to siblings of students who are already attending the school. The process to determine if an application is eligible can take five (5) weeks. For additional information on this process, see the SNSP FAQ for parents.

Continuing Student Eligibility

Continuing SNSP Student Status. SNSP students do not need to resubmit SNSP applications every year. A student who has been accepted into the SNSP will continue to receive a scholarship until one of the following occurs: (a) the student graduates from high school; (b) the student turns 21; (c) the student no longer resides in Wisconsin; (d) the student enrolls in another school or a home-based educational program; (e) the student is not made available for a reevaluation every 3 years; or (f) a partial scholarship student leaves the SNSP school that he/she is attending.

Residency Reverification: SNSP students are required, on an annual basis, to provide residency documentation to their SNSP school. SNSP students must be residents of Wisconsin.

Transfers. A SNSP student may transfer from one SNSP school to another SNSP school and retain his/her scholarship if the student has been continuously enrolled in the SNSP and has **not** been determined to no longer be a child with a disability through an IEP team reevaluation. In order for a SNSP student to transfer and successfully retain his/her scholarship, the student must complete a Transfer Request Form and submit the Transfer Request Form and all required documentation to the school that the student is applying to transfer to. The Transfer Request Form is available at:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/special-needs-scholarship/studentapplications-18-19>.

The SNSP student must remain at his/her current SNSP school until the transfer request is accepted by the new school.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q.1- Is the private school required to implement the student's IEP or services plan?

A.1- SNSP schools are required to implement the IEP or services plan of SNSP students as modified by agreement between the SNSP school and the student's parent.

Q.2- Can a student attend any private school under the SNSP? How does an applicant know which schools are participating in the SNSP?

A.2- Only schools that registered to participate in the SNSP for the 2018-19 school year may participate in the SNSP. A list of schools that have registered to participate for the 2018-19 school year is available at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/specialneeds-scholarship/student-applications-18-19>.

Q.3- Can a private school charge a SNSP student tuition and fees?

A.3- Yes. A SNSP school can charge a SNSP student tuition and fees.

Q.4- Are there statutory procedures regarding student suspensions and expulsions that a private school participating in the SNSP is required to follow?

A.4- No. State law does not require SNSP schools to have suspension or expulsion policies. Parents should ask the SNSP school if they have a suspension or expulsion policy, and obtain a copy of the policy if the school has one.

Q.5- When can my student start attending the SNSP school?

A.5- A student will not receive a SNSP scholarship until he or she is accepted into the program and the parent and the school have agreed on the services that will be provided to the student. If a parent chooses to move his or her student to the private school before this time, the private school may choose to charge additional tuition and fees for that time period. Parents should discuss this with the school they are applying to in order to understand the school's process.

For more information contact:

Special Needs Scholarship Program
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841
Toll-free: 888-245-2732, ext. 3, ext. 6
snsp@dpi.wi.gov
Website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/special-needs-scholarship>

2018-19

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