

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Ready for Board July 15, 2025
Title	Copy of HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Code	po2371 JBB
Status	
Legal	WV Code 18-8-1(m) WV Code 18-31-1 WV Code 18-31-5 WV Code 18-31-3(a) WV Code 18-31-3(e) WV Code 18-31-8(a), (f) WV Code 18-31-9(c) WV Code 18-31-10(d) WV Code 18-31-11 WV Code 18-31-13 20 U.S.C. 1232g
Adopted	May 17, 2022

2371 - HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Hope Scholarship Program (Program) is established to provide the option for a parent or eligible student to better meet individual educational needs.

It shall be the responsibility of the ~~District~~ County to provide accurate records to any education service provider that has enrolled an eligible student with a complete copy of the student's school records, while complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). (See Also: Policy 8330 - Student Records)

Annually, by July 1 of each year, the Hope Scholarship Board is required to verify with the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) the criteria established in WV Code 18-31-7.

General Requirements

The Program funds will be allocated by the Hope Scholarship Board to an eligible student or the parents of an eligible student. The funds will be awarded to an eligible recipient to pay qualifying elementary and secondary education expenses.

Application

For a student to be eligible for the program, they must meet the requirements established in ~~18-31-5 W.V. Code~~ WV Code 18-31-2(5) Code and complete the standard, confidential application form.

The application shall be approved and the eligible student granted the scholarship by the Hope Scholarship Board, if the parent meets the requirements established in W.V. Code and signs an agreement promising to meet the standards set forth in statute.

The State Superintendent shall develop a guideline to establish an appeal process if a parent or eligible student is denied a scholarship. This process will be consistent with 18-31-10 W.V. Code.

If granted a scholarship, the parents and eligible students must agree to use the funds deposited into the scholarship account only for the qualifying expenses as established in 18-31-7 W.V. Code.

Educational Privileges and Programs Available to Hope Scholarship Students

A Hope Scholarship student who pursues an individualized instructional program shall have the same privileges and access to programs that this code makes available to students exempt from compulsory school attendance pursuant to WV Code including, but not limited to:

- A. the ability to receive a diploma from the student's secondary educational program administrator according to the requirements of WV Code;
- B. the ability to receive the PROMISE scholarship according to the requirements of WV Code;
- C. the ability to receive a work permit without prior review by a school administrator pursuant to WV Code; and
- D. the ability to participate in an ACE program according to the requirements in WV Code.

A Hope Scholarship student that attends a participating school shall have the same privileges and access to programs available to students exempt from compulsory school attendance pursuant to WV Code by virtue of attendance of a nonpublic school including, but not limited to:

- A. the ability to receive a diploma from the student's school administrator according to the requirements of WV Code;
- B. the ability to receive the PROMISE scholarship according to the requirements of WV Code; and
- C. the ability to participate in an ACE program according to the requirements in WV Code.

Exemption

A student is exempt from the compulsory school attendance requirements set forth in State law if the student is an eligible recipient participating in the Hope Scholarship Program and notice has been provided about the student's intent to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall enter the following information into the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS):

- A. The filing of the notice of intent pursuant to State law;
- B. In the case of a Hope Scholarship recipient who chooses an individualized instructional program, annually, the student's test results or determination that a student is making academic progress commensurate with his or her age and ability, as applicable, pursuant to State law requirements; and
- C. In the case of an eligible recipient enrolling in a participating school, annually, the filing of a notice of enrollment pursuant State law.

Statewide Assessments

The ~~District County~~ will notify any student who resides in the ~~District County~~ and receives a Hope Scholarship, and the student's parent, about the locations and times to take all Statewide assessments. Parents shall be responsible for transporting the student to the assessment site.

A Hope Scholarship student who chooses an individualized instructional program must have annually taken a nationally normed standardized achievement test of academic achievement in the subject areas of reading, language, and mathematics, and when available for the student's grade-level, science, and social studies.

~~Term of Hope Scholarship~~ Continued Participation in Hope Scholarship Program

~~Annually, by July 1 of each year, the Hope Scholarship Board is required to verify with the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) the criteria established in 18-31-7 W.V. Code.~~

~~The parent or eligible student shall annually renew the recipient's scholarship.~~ Notwithstanding any changes in eligibility, effective January 1, 2025, a Hope Scholarship student may continue participation in the program from school year to school year without reapplying for the program.

As a condition of continued participation in the Hope Scholarship Program from one school year to the next, a parent must annually meet the following requirements:

- A. Submit proof of the student's continued West Virginia residency.
- B. Execute the parent agreement with the Hope Scholarship Board ahead of each school year.
- C. Report to the County Superintendent of the student's county of residence that the student has complied with all attendance and academic requirements for the most recent school year.

Parents are required to notify the Hope Scholarship Board immediately and cease use of Hope Scholarship funds upon the student's enrollment in a public school or when the student graduates from or otherwise successfully completes a secondary school program.

Terms of Hope Scholarship

Unless there has been a change in eligibility the scholarship shall remain in force until one of the following conditions occur:

- A. A parent of an eligible recipient fails to ~~renew a Hope Scholarship account~~ meet annual requirements or withdraws from the Program;
- B. The Hope Scholarship Board determines that a student is no longer eligible for a scholarship;
- C. The Hope Scholarship Board suspends or revokes participation in the Hope Scholarship Program for failure to comply with the requirements of State statute;
- D. The eligible student successfully completes a secondary education program; or
- E. The eligible scholarship student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.

If the scholarship will be terminated due to the above-stated, statutory criteria, the Hope Scholarship Board shall notify the parent of the eligible student that their account will be closed in forty-five (45) calendar days. If the parent of an eligible student ~~fails to respond to the notification by the Hope Scholarship Board regarding the condition or conditions upon which the termination is based within thirty (30) days, the account will be officially closed and the remaining money will be returned to the State~~ declines continued participation in the program or does not respond within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of notice, the account will be officially closed and remaining money will be returned to the State.

Limited Liability

The School Board shall not be liable based on the award or use of a Hope Scholarship awarded to an eligible student pursuant to this policy and the provisions of ~~18-31-1 et seq. W.V. Code~~ WV Code 18-31-1 et seq.