



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Laura Bayne  
Deputy Superintendent, Strategic Engagement

**DATE:** January 30, 2024

**RE:** District Eligibility for Education Scholarship Trust Fund Program

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff have worked diligently to meet the statutory requirements to launch South Carolina's new Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) program for low-income students. Funding for qualified students would begin in the 2024-25 school year, and public school districts are designated under the law as eligible education service providers.

For those unfamiliar with the program, it provides eligible South Carolina students an annual scholarship allocation of \$6,000 to be used to support their education. You may learn more about student eligibility and other program details [here](#).

Under this program, there are several use cases that benefit your district:

- For districts that allow out-of-district students to enroll in district schools, students may use ESTF funds to pay any out-of-district transfer fees.
- The law also stipulates that students who are not enrolled as a full-time student in their resident district may use funds to pay for contracted services from a public school district, including individual classes, after-school tutoring services, transportation, or fees or costs associated with participation in extracurricular activities.
- Pursuant to this law, public charter schools are not eligible to receive program funds.

The Department has worked with its vendor (ClassWallet) to create a streamlined registration process specifically for our public school districts. You may complete the quick registration [here](#), and ClassWallet will follow-up directly to ensure the correct banking information is on file to allow families to direct payments to your district. Once registered to participate, districts will generate an invoice reflecting the cost of any services, and families will upload the invoice to their portal to initiate payment. Please contact Laura Bayne at 803-734-5080 or [LJBayne@ed.sc.gov](mailto:LJBayne@ed.sc.gov) with any questions.