



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Public Information Officers
Chief Finance Officers

FROM: Meka Childs
Director, Education Choice and Family Engagement

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: District Point of Contact for Education Scholarship Trust Fund Program

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has launched South Carolina's new Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) program for K12 students. Funding for eligible students begins prior to the 2024-25 school year, and under the law, school districts can serve ESTF program students by becoming Education Service Providers (ESP). As an ESP, districts may better provide their educational services to students who currently are not able to access these opportunities. The SCDE is pleased to facilitate the ease with which districts can accept ESTF students.

The ESTF provides eligible students across the Palmetto State 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](#). The SCDE determines student eligibility prior to enrolling them into the ESTF program. Students from every county have applied to take advantage of educational options available in our state.

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. Students who are not enrolled as a full-time student in their resident district may use ESTF funds to pay for contracted services from a public school district, including individual classes, after-school tutoring services, transportation, or approved fees or costs associated with participation in extracurricular activities. Pursuant to this law, public charter schools are not eligible to receive program funds.

The SCDE 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

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ClassWallet will follow-up with you directly to ensure your district is prepared to allow ESTF program families to direct payments to your district for the services you provide them.

Please contact Meka Childs at 803-734-3869 or MChilds@ed.sc.gov with any questions.