



Early Learning Scholarship Pathway I Application

Instructions

What is an Early Learning Scholarship?

An Early Learning Scholarship Pathway can help your child attend high-quality child care and early education to help your child get ready for kindergarten. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the program of your choice that is participating in Parent Aware. Parent Aware is a rating tool to help parents select high-quality childhood programs. You may use Parent Aware to find an Early Learning Scholarship Pathway I at any Parent Aware participating early childhood program in Minnesota that your child attends on a regular basis.

Your child's not required to call (612) 291-9811 or visit the [Parent Aware website](#) (ParentAware.org).

You may use these same resources if your child is currently attending a program but you would like to explore other options. Please call or visit the Area Administrator about your program choice if you are awarded a scholarship.

Scholarship amounts are based on the Parent Aware rating level of the program you choose.

Parent Aware Program Rating Level	Scholarship Amount: Center-Based School District/ Charter School and Head Start	Scholarship Amount: Licensed Family Child Care
Parent Aware Four-Star Rating	Up to \$15,000 per child	Up to \$12,000 per child
Parent Aware Three-Star Rating	Up to \$9,000 per child	Up to \$9,000 per child
Parent Aware One or Two-Star Rating	Up to \$6,000 per child	Up to \$6,000 per child
	Up to \$5,000 per child	

Is my child eligible?

Children must meet age eligibility criteria listed below at the time they are awarded. Children age out of eligibility for the Early Learning Scholarships Program either (a) the day they are age-eligible for kindergarten (age 5 on September 1), or (b) the day the child is enrolled in and attending kindergarten, whichever is earlier. Once a child is awarded a scholarship, they are eligible to continue to receive a scholarship until they age out.

Children must meet one of the following age criteria:

- Children ages 3 to 4 on September 1 of the current school year, or age 5 if not yet aged out of eligibility.
- Children ages 0 to 4 on September 1 of the current school year, or age 5 if not yet aged out of eligibility, who meet one of the following criteria:
 - A parent of the child is under the age of 21 and currently pursuing a high school or general education equivalency diploma (GED); **must also meet income eligibility requirements**;
 - The child is in foster care or receiving child protective services; or
 - The family has experienced homelessness in the previous 24 months; **must also meet income eligibility requirements**); or
 - The child has a sibling who has already been awarded a scholarship and attends the same program, long as funds are available. **Applications for eligible siblings do not require proof of income eligibility.**

Note: Priority for funding is given to children who meet the eligibility criteria with an asterisk ().

Beginning January 1, 2024, age eligibility will expand to all children ages 0 to 4. Priority for scholarships will be given to children listed in the priority criteria above.

Note: Awards are made as long as funds are available. If a child is determined to be eligible for an early learning scholarship and funds are not available, they will be added to the waitlist.

Additional Requirements

Only a parent or legal guardian of the child/children may apply for Early Learning Scholarship Pathway I and your yopar 0.6 (wJ -0.001 Tc -0.001 Tw d)-0.6 (Tc 0.39608 -01.6 (o)-4 (u)-0.6 (r)-15,)0.6 5 (r)-1.08 (0.6 (wJ g)-0.6 (d)

How do I Apply for an Early Learning Scholarship?

1. Complete the application in blue/black ink or electronically. Information that is required is marked with an asterisk(*).
 - If the child is in foster care, the county or tribal social services agency must complete and sign the application. The foster parent cannot apply directly for a scholarship.
2. Attach the required documentation to demonstrate your eligibility. See Page 6 for requirements for Option 1 (proof of participation in a publically funded program) or Page 7 for requirements for Option 2 (proof of income).
 - If applying in the "parent under 21 eligibility" category, the applicant parent must provide written proof of their pursuit of a high school diploma or GED on the letterhead of the education organization providing the course(s) of study the parent attends.
3. Read the Agreement to Comply with Requirements and Tennessee Warning.
4. Sign and date the application in blue/black ink or electronic signature.
5. Submit your original application to the Area Administrator by following the instructions provided at the bottom of the Application Checklist on the next page.

This form was created by the Minnesota Department of Education and must not be altered or adjusted in any way. Funding provided by the Minnesota Department of Education using state funding to support administration of early learning scholarships, Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.165.

Application Checklist

Review the checklist below to make sure you have everything you need for your application:

- Complete all required areas of the application. The items marked with an asterisk (*) are required. All other information is optional.
- Complete this form in blue/black ink or electronically