

## Georgia Special Needs Scholarship: Current Program Facts

- A student is eligible for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship if they meet the following criteria:
  - Student has a parent/guardian who is a Georgia resident and has been for one year;
  - Student was enrolled and completed the 2017/2018 school year (or whatever the current school year is) in a Georgia public school in grades K-12;
  - Student was reported as attending in October (2017) and March (2018) FTE counts; and
  - A student must have received special education services at some point during the 2017 – 2018 school year through an IEP. A student must be reported by a school district(s) in either the October 2017 OR March 2018 student counts OR in final student record as a student receiving special education services by the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year.
  
- The Scholarship amount is determined based on the educational program that would have been provided for the student in the resident school system as calculated under QBE (federal and local funds are excluded).
  - Scholarship students remain in the count for the local school (not for accountability for other requirements but just to calculate the scholarship total).
  - The funds for the scholarship are subtracted from the school's allotment.
  
- Funds can only be used to pay for private school tuition at a private school approved through the DOE (cannot be used for therapies, adaptive equipment, tutoring, etc.).
  
- The current average scholarship amount is \$5656 but the average cost of tuition at the school's students attend through the scholarship is \$13,382. This includes only the tuition and may not include other expenses associated with the child's education such as therapy, adaptive technology or specialized curriculum expenses the student may incur.<sup>1</sup>
  - Families have to cover the gap between the scholarship amount and the expense.
  - While some school tuition expenses are very high, the median tuition expense is still \$9,333

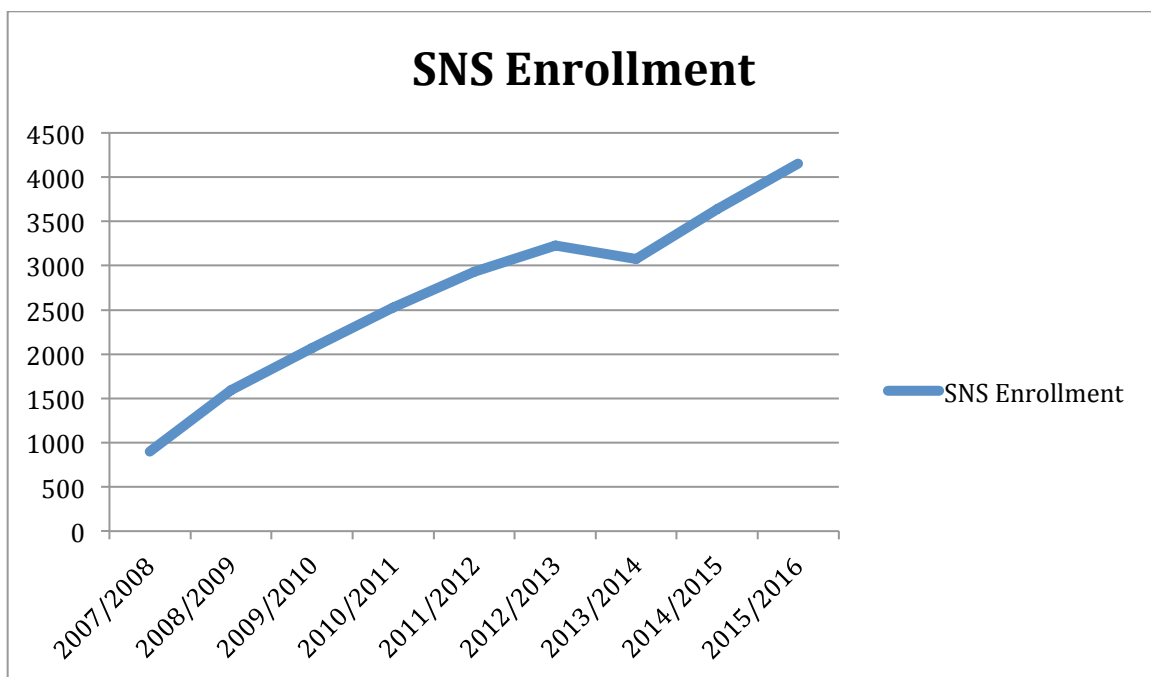
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<sup>1</sup> Based on DOE and GOSA reports found at <https://gosa.georgia.gov/research-reports>

## Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Participant History <sup>2</sup>

| School Year | Total Participants |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 2007/2008   | 899                |
| 2008/2009   | 1596               |
| 2009/2010   | 2068               |
| 2010/2011   | 2529               |
| 2011/2012   | 2933               |
| 2012/2013   | 3229               |
| 2013/2014   | 3075               |
| 2014/2015   | 3643               |
| 2015/2016   | 4154 *             |

***\* There were over 235,333 students with disabilities that were potentially eligible for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship in the 2015/2016 school year.<sup>3</sup>***



<sup>2</sup> Based on DOE and GOSA reports found at <https://gosa.georgia.gov/research-reports>

<sup>3</sup> Based on GOSA K-12 Report Card

Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Funding History

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Average<br/>Scholarship</u> | <u>Lowest<br/>Scholarship</u> | <u>Highest<br/>Scholarship</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2007-2008   | \$6,260                        | \$2,536                       | \$15,324                       |
| 2008-2009   | \$6,331                        | \$2,592                       | \$13,586                       |
| 2009-2010   | \$6,342                        | \$2,580                       | \$15,100                       |
| 2010-2011   | \$6,860                        | \$2,539                       | \$15,874                       |
| 2011-2012   | \$7,038                        | \$2,539                       | \$15,874                       |
| 2012-2013   | \$5,747                        | \$2,196                       | \$12,803                       |
| 2013-2014   | \$5,924                        | \$1,235                       | \$15,209                       |
| 2014-2015   | \$5,720                        | \$1,306                       | \$19,014                       |
| 2015-2016   | \$5,656                        | \$580                         | \$14,519                       |