FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Carolina Awards Tier 1 Opportunity Scholarships

Families must take action to accept their scholarship by April 19, 2024.

RALEIGH, NC (March 30, 2024) – Around 72,000 new Opportunity Scholarship applications were received during the <u>priority</u> application period that closed on March 1, 2024. On March 29th, award offers were sent to families of 13,511 new students in Award Tier 1 – households with the lowest income levels – that their student has been offered an Opportunity Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year.

Families in Tier 1 have until April 19, 2024, <u>to accept or decline the award offer</u>. Families must log into their MyPortal account, go to their To-Do List, and click on "Respond to Award Offer." Families can also see notifications in their MyPortal account. Award offers that are not accepted by April 19th will expire.

Notifications have also been sent to families in the remaining tiers. In early May, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) will make award offers to some Award Tier 2 families. The number of Tier 2 offers available will not be known until Tier 1 families have accepted or declined their award offers. There are not sufficient funds available to offer students in Tiers 3 and 4 an award. If additional funds become available, NCSEAA will notify families as soon as possible.

Families who need more information should go to <u>Opportunity Scholarship - NCSEAA</u> or call **855-330-3955**.

The Opportunity Scholarship program was created by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013. Scholarships are awarded based on a family's <u>household income</u> and can be used to pay the required tuition and fees to attend an <u>eligible private school</u>.

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North Carolina State Educational Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) is the State agency designated by North Carolina law to administer the K12 scholarship programs, including the Opportunity Scholarship and the ESA+ program. NCSEAA determines student eligibility and makes direct payments to eligible schools on behalf of students. NCSEAA also provides program support, resources, and customer service to interested and participating families and schools. <u>https://www.ncseaa.edu</u>