

Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program

Children transferring from a Georgia public school to a private school may be eligible for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (GSNS). The GSNS Program is a parental choice program for special needs students attending Georgia public schools who are served under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) of 504 Plan or who receive special education services. The scholarship amount varies; the average amount is \$5,700. GSNS eligibility can be used in addition to any financial aid awarded by the Atlanta Speech School.

Below is an overview of information regarding eligibility for the GSNS Program; more information can be found at the GSNS web page: <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-NeedsScholarship-Program.aspx>.

Student eligibility criteria:

1. A student must have a parent/guardian who currently lives in Georgia and has been a resident for at least one calendar year;
2. A student was enrolled and completed the entire school year in a Georgia public school in grades kindergarten through twelfth prior to transfer to private school;
3. A student was reported as attending a Georgia public school by a school district(s) during mandatory student counts conducted in October and March of the qualifying year;
4. A student must have received special education services at some point during the school year through an IEP (a student does not need to have an IEP for the entire school year to qualify). A student must be reported by a school district(s) in either the October OR March student counts OR in the final student record as a student receiving special education services by the end of the school year.

For Kindergarten students:

1. The student's parent currently resides within Georgia and has been a Georgia resident for at least one calendar year;
2. The student received preschool special education or related services in the previous school year;
3. The student must be entering Kindergarten for the applicable school year;
4. The student must attain the age of five on or before September 1 of the applicable school year.

For students with a 504 Plan:

1. The student's parent currently resides within Georgia and has been a Georgia resident for at least one calendar year;
2. The student must have spent the prior school year in attendance at a Georgia public school
3. The student had a 504 plan in effect during the previous school year.

If you believe that your child is eligible for the GSNS, please contact Anne Bell at (404)233-5332 ext. 3452 or abell@atlantaspeechschool.org.

