

A C C E S S . A C H I E V E . S U C C E E D .



Georgia Promise Scholarship Program Service Provider / Vendor Handbook

Introduction

This guide has been assembled to support eligible service providers and vendors through the implementation of the Georgia Promise Scholarship, the state's new education savings account program administered by the Georgia Education Savings Authority (GESA).

Signed into law in 2024 through Senate Bill 233, the Georgia Promise Scholarship will empower families to pursue exceptional educational programs. In addition to funding tuition at participating private schools, the Georgia Promise Scholarship will allow eligible families to use funds for eligible tutoring, therapy, and instructional services with accredited community colleges / post-secondary institutions and online program providers. Additional product types will also be eligible, such as curriculum, supplemental materials, and certain technology items. All expenses will require final approval from GESA. This handbook will provide more information regarding service provider/vendor eligibility and timeline. For more program information, including student eligibility, please reference, *MyGeorgiaPromise.org*.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Georgia Promise Scholarship Program.

Mitch Seabaugh Senior Vice President Georgia Promise Scholarship What is the Georgia Education Savings Authority (GESA)?

GESA was created as part of SB 233 to administer the Promise Scholarship. GESA is a companion entity to the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), which runs the HOPE / Zell Miller scholarships, ACE grant program, and various loan programs, among others.

Contact the Georgia Education Savings Authority

Questions? Please contact the Georgia Education Savings Authority:





Website MyGeorgiaPromise.org



Phone 470-470-7057



Email help@mygeorgiapromise.org

Service Provider Eligibility

To participate in the Georgia Promise Scholarship Program, service providers must meet certain eligibility requirements, depending on their expense type:

	Eligible expenses*		
	 Tutoring services 		
	Requirements		
	 Educator certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) 		
	Required information/documentation for all tutors		
	 PSC Certification ID 		
Tutors	 PSC field code (subject(s) and grade(s) certified for) 		
	 Active PSC certificate 		
	 Proof of business license (mandatory for businesses; optional for individuals) 		

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Elig	Ible	exp	ens	es

Occupational, behavioral, physical, or speech-language therapies



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Physician or therapist licensed pursuant to Chapter 10A, 28, 33,
 34, or 44 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia

Required information/documentation for all therapists/physicians

Therapists and physicians

- Proof of relevant licensure in Georgia (for above listed chapters)
- Therapy type/title
- Proof of business license (optional for individuals; mandatory for businesses)

* All expenses must be approved by GESA for inclusion on the program marketplace; more information regarding the process for verifying the eligibility of expenses may be found on page 5

Service Provider Eligibility

To participate in the Georgia Promise Scholarship Program, service providers and vendors must meet certain eligibility requirements, depending on their expense type:

Eligible expenses*

 Tuition, fees, and required textbooks for eligible core courses and eligible CTAE courses (per Code Section 20-2-161.3)

Requirements

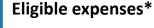
- Georgia-based community college or post-secondary institution

Postsecondary institutions / community colleges

- Accreditation by an institution on the <u>DOE Database of</u> <u>Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs</u>, including:
 - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
 - Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges Council on Occupational Education

Needed information/documentation

Proof of accreditation (by an agency included above)



Tuition, fees, and required textbooks for eligible online core courses and eligible CTAE courses



Requirements

- Online learning program or course provider
- Accreditation by one of the following:
 - Any institution approved for accrediting private schools or community colleges / post-secondary institutions
 - Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)
 - A state-sanctioned accrediting agency for online programs

Needed information/documentation

Proof of accreditation (by an agency included above)

* All expenses must be approved by GESA for inclusion on the program marketplace; more information regarding the process for verifying the eligibility of expenses may be found on page 5

Online learning programs / courses

Eligible Expense Types ver (for approved service providers and vendors)

Eligible Expenses

- Product/service offerings from an approved service provider/vendor must be preapproved by GESA prior to their inclusion on the program marketplace
- Eligible educational offerings must be classified under an approved expense category (see table below)
- Offerings may be subject to additional, specific category-level requirements/restrictions (for example, textbooks should align to a core educational subject)
- More specific requirements/restrictions are available on the Eligible Expense List at MyGeorgiaPromise.org

Tuition	Educational Products		Electronics	Services	Online Based Media
Private school tuition and fees	Books	Subscription*	Calculators	Class Fees	Educational Applications*
Post-secondary institutions / community college tuition for eligible core and CTAE courses	Classroom Materials	School- specific expenses	Computer accessories	Online Classes*	Educational Learning*
	Curriculum*	Textbooks*	Computers	Test and Exam Fees	Software
	Educational classes*	Tutoring aides	Headphones	Therapy	
	Educational materials		Internet Hot Spot	Tutoring*	
	Online school materials			Transportation	

*Only expenses for core subjects are eligible

Additional key information:

- Program funds will be made available to families in quarterly disbursements
- Reimbursements will not be made under any circumstances, with the exception of eligible transportation expenses

Key steps for uploading offerings to the portal (once approved as a service provider)

Preparation

- 1. Review the list of eligible expenses and restrictions (overview on page 5 but more details at *MyGeorgiaPromise.org*)
- 2. Align your product/service offerings to marketplace categories / subcategories
- 3. Review the **training video** on *MyGeorgiaPromise.org* (in the "Service Provider/Vendor FAQs") for more information about how to submit offerings
- 4. Review specific service provider/vendor requirements below

Submission

- 1. Visit the Odyssey portal to view the offering portal
- 2. Do not inflate prices of offerings (as attested to in service provider/vendor application)
- **Bundle offerings**, as applicable (i.e., multiple tutoring sessions, curriculum bundle, etc.)

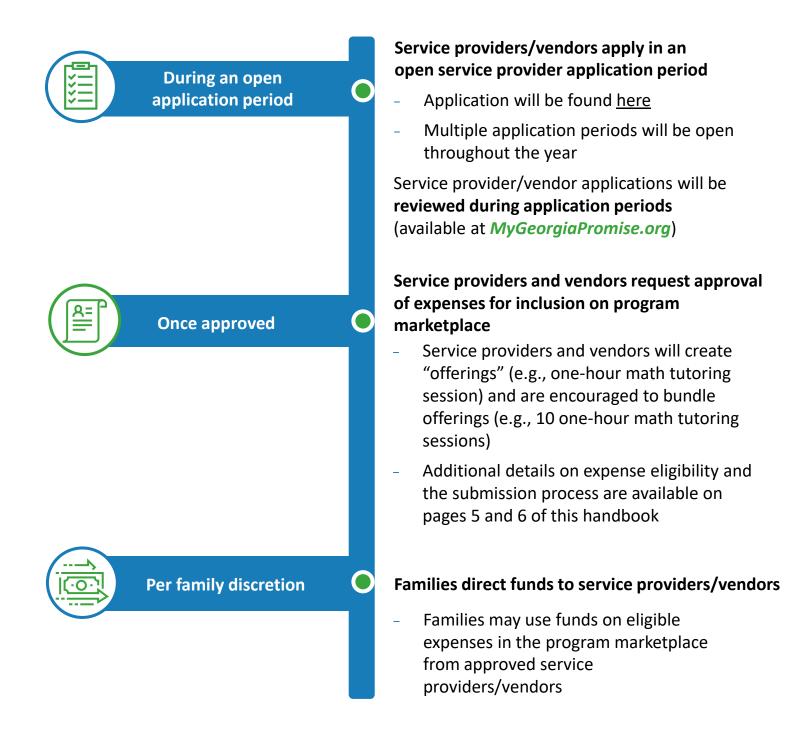
Additional protocol for each service provider/vendor type

Tutors	 Include the PSC-certified tutor name in offering title / description
Therapists / Physicians	 Include the licensed therapist / physician name in offering title / description
Online Learning Programs Curriculum Providers	 Confirm that offerings align to an eligible core course option Indicate the grade level in the dropdown options Indicate the subject and grade level in the offering title / description
Electronic Providers	 Refer to price maximums for electronics on the eligible expenses list
Book Retailers	 Fiction / non-fiction book offerings will be limited to those required by participating private school and service providers/vendors (i.e., curriculum providers, tutors)

Timeline

Georgia Promise Scholarship Key Milestones

There are several upcoming key milestones that impact service providers/vendors interested in participating in the Georgia Promise Scholarship Program:



1

General Application Questions

How may I apply to be a service provider/vendor?

Please visit <u>https://gapromisevendors.withodyssey.com/registration/</u> to apply in an open application period. Multiple periods will be open throughout the year (available at *MyGeorgiaPromise.org*), and applications will be reviewed during these periods.

2 How may I add service/expense offerings to the service provider/vendor marketplace?

After being approved as a service provider/vendor and onboarded to the program platform, you may request approval for specific expenses. *More information on the process for submitting requests to approve specific expenses is available on pages 5/6 and will be shared directly with approved service providers/vendors.*

3 What other expenses may families use funds for?

Pending GESA approval of product offerings, families will be able to use funds for curriculum and supplementary materials, certain technology expenses, and other approved categories (in addition to eligible services such as tuition, tutoring, and therapy). *More information on eligible expenses is available on pages 5/6.*

Are there any restrictions on what offerings are allowed on the marketplace? To learn more about potential restrictions/requirements related to specific offering categories, service providers/vendors should review the Eligible Expense List document available at *MyGeorgiaPromise.org*. Examples include that curriculum must be related to a core educational subject/course.

5

4

May I provide services (i.e., tutoring and therapy) to a family member? No, program funds are prohibited from use on services provided to direct family members (such as children, grandchildren, and siblings, among others).

6 How will I receive payment for product/service offerings? Payments will be sent through the program platform partner, Odyssey, for fulfilled orders.

- For services, this means that the service provider/vendor has performed the first scheduled service.
- For physical goods, this means that the service provider/vendor inputted a tracking number within the Odyssey portal.

Following program approval, service providers/vendors will be asked to connect an account via Stripe to allow for funds to be sent to the preferred bank account of a service provider/vendor. Instructions for this process will be made available upon approval.