

**(Special Education Scholarship Grants for  
Children with Disabilities)**

# **Disabilities Grant Program**

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**House Select Committee on Education Strategies and Practice  
October 18, 2016**

# Disabilities Grant Program



**Expands school choice for eligible students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

- For tuition and required fees at a participating nonpublic school, and certain other expenses related to educating a child with a disability
- Awards up to \$8,000 per student per school year

# Disabilities Grant: 4 categories of expenses

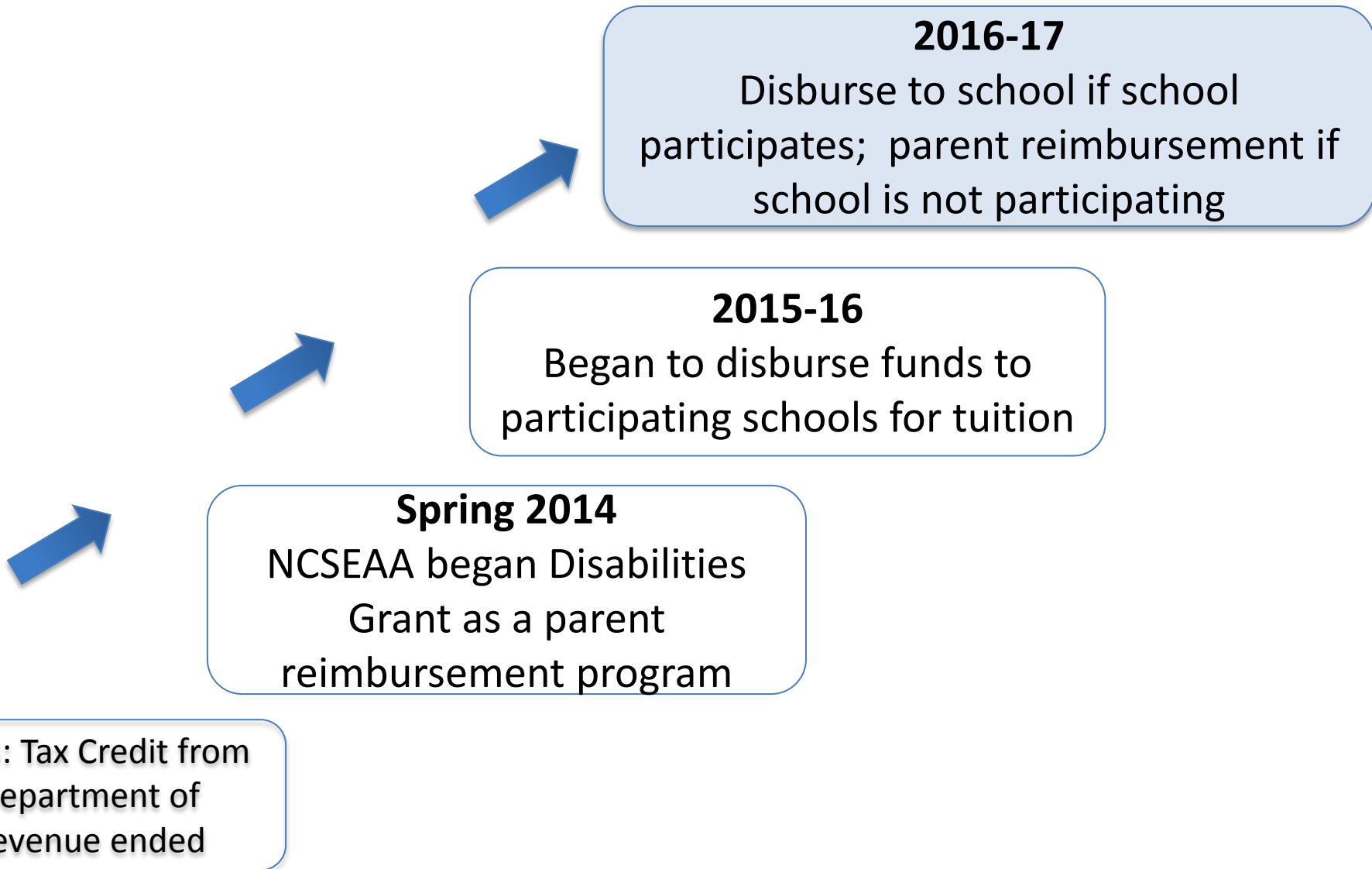
*Schools* receive a disbursement on behalf of students:

1. **Tuition** at a participating nonpublic school

*Parents* are reimbursed for qualified expenses:

1. **Tuition** at a school registered with DNPE but not participating in Disabilities Grant
2. **Special Education**
3. **Related Services**
4. **Educational Technology**

# Disabilities Grant: tuition changes (2014-2016)



# Disabilities Grant: tuition changes (2014-2016)

*Parent Reimbursement continues for other qualified expenses*

**2016-17**

Disburse to school if school participates; parent reimbursement if school is not participating

**2015-16**

Began to disburse funds to participating schools for tuition

**Spring 2014**

NCSEAA began Disabilities Grant as a parent reimbursement program

2013: Tax Credit from Department of Revenue ended

# Disabilities Grant: data

	<b>Spring 2014</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Recipients	305	628	787
Funds Disbursed	\$ 841,229	\$ 3,224,638	\$ 4,044,884
Average Grant	\$ 2,758	\$ 5,134	\$ 5,140
Maximum Grant	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000



# Disabilities Grant: 2015-16 comments

Grade levels with highest number of students: 7<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>

Grade levels with lowest number of students: 12<sup>th</sup>, Kindergarten, 11<sup>th</sup>

Nonpublic Schools with highest number of students enrolled:

- Flaming Sword Christian Academy (Fayetteville) 36
- Piedmont School (High Point) 35
- Noble Academy (Greensboro) 33
- Fletcher Academy (Raleigh) 30
- Lionheart Academy of the Triad (Greensboro) 20

Counties with highest number of students enrolled:

- Wake 145
- Guilford 93
- Mecklenburg 92
- Forsyth 48
- Cumberland 46

# Disabilities Grant: planning information

- About 90% of recipients will renew.
- 2016-17 appropriation for Disabilities grant = \$10,000,000.
- After administrative costs and payments to DPI for evaluations, award amount funding = \$9,350,000.
- We expect to fund ~1250 students in 2016-17. At current funding levels, if 90% of students renew, we would expect space for 125 new students in 2017-18.
- Disabilities Grant application opens each year May 1.
- 2016-17 application closed September 1, 2016.



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