

# ECENC Awareness

## **What is ECENC?**

ECENC stands for “Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children.” South Carolina’s ECENC program helps students with special needs afford to attend private schools.

Currently, the program is NOT based on income, but rather based on whether or not a child is “eligible” (per a qualifying disability need) and whether the child’s school is a participating school.

In order to participate in the program, both the students with special needs and the schools must meet certain eligibility requirements.

## **How can a parent receive financial help to send their child with special needs to private school?**

Under South Carolina’s ECENC program, there are two separate ways that a parent could access funds to pay tuition at an eligible private school for their eligible child.

- One way is with tuition tax credits (reimbursement to the parent AFTER the parent pays tuition).
- The other way is with a scholarship (a check written by a scholarship funding organization directly to the school for the child’s tuition).

There is no one-size-fits-all “best” way – there are advantages and disadvantages to each way.

## **How do I know if my child is eligible?**

The short answer is that an eligible child may have an “acute or chronic condition that significantly impedes the student’s ability to learn and succeed in school, and needs special education or related services.”

Some examples of conditions that have qualified students at schools across the state include things like: severe ADD/ADHD, Autism, speech/language issues, various emotional issues, and specific learning disabilities.

Various types of free testing is available thru Greenville County Schools (even if you do not plan to send your child to public school). If you would like to discuss your concerns, please call the office.

## **What happens if my child is eligible?**

You would work with the school staff to develop an “Individual Student Plan” (ISP). This plan would highlight your child’s strengths and weaknesses, as well as identify accommodations that could be implemented to help you child have a successful school year.

If you would like more information or to discuss your child’s situation,  
please call the school office ASAP.

There are ECENC date deadlines throughout the summer for the 2019-2020 school year.