

Alaska's Correspondence School Allotment Program (CSAP) – FAQ

What is a Correspondence School?

Correspondence schools in Alaska are public charter schools. While these have traditionally been associated with homeschooling, they now accommodate full-time private school and hybrid options. The families of enrolled students are allocated an annual allotment of public funding for a variety of education services and materials, to include academics and extracurricular activities.

What is the Correspondence School Allotment Program (CSAP)?

The Correspondence School Allotment Program (CSAP) is a first-in-the-nation program that allows eligible families to be reimbursed up to \$4,500 per student enrolled in the private school of their choice. Whether you want your child to attend a private school full-time or take classes a la carte, Alaska parents have the ability to highly customize their child's education based on their individual learning style and required needs.

How much is the allotment?

Allotments vary among the correspondence school programs and can also differ by grade level or other criteria. Visit our [website](#) to see a list of the current allotment amounts.

Can I enroll in CSAP any time or just at certain times?

You may be able to enroll your child in CSAP at any time, depending on the correspondence school you choose. There are lottery dates associated with certain correspondence schools, but those lottery requirements only apply if the correspondence school has met its student cap. School districts set their own lottery deadlines.

What costs are covered? How do I get books and other curriculum materials?

If your child is using the full-time private school option within CSAP, the private school will usually provide the required books and material. If you are choosing more of a hybrid model, once your student is enrolled in CSAP and paired with an advisory teacher, your family's allotment can be used to purchase books and education materials.

Do I have to pay a vendor or private school myself or does the correspondence program pay them directly?

This varies. In most instances you will pay vendors (including private schools) yourself, and then approved expenses will be reimbursed to you upon presentation of receipts. In other instances, a correspondence school may directly purchase materials or enrollment passes for online courses in bulk and distribute those to families.

If I don't use my child's full allotment one year, can the funds roll over to the next year?

Once your child is enrolled in CSAP, all unused funds will be rolled over to the subsequent year for future use, as long as the student stays enrolled in the same correspondence program. If the student moves to another program or another school, the accumulated balance is forfeited.

Alaska's Correspondence School Allotment Program (CSAP) – FAQ

If I enroll my student in CSAP, can he/she still take on-site classes at a neighborhood school?

Yes, with approval from the neighborhood school, a student can enroll in individual classes there. This allows for a hybrid approach, such as combining private school in-person classes with public school in-person classes, or online classes with public school in-person classes.

What is an ILP and will I need one?

ILP stands for Individual Learning Plan. Once enrolled in CSAP, the student, their family and assigned advisory teacher will meet to develop a highly customized and personalized curriculum tailored to the student's strengths and learning styles. All allotment expenditures must be connected to a student's ILP.

Why can't religious classes be reimbursed?

This restriction is per 2022 guidance from an Alaska deputy attorney general opinion.

Can educational services provided by a family member be reimbursed?

No, the law prohibits this.

Can IEPs (individual education plans for speech therapy, etc.) be used with CSAP?

Most of the time, but you'll need to verify with the school district of the correspondence program you select; districts handle this in different ways.

Are standardized tests required for students enrolled in CSAP?

Since correspondence schools are part of Alaska public school districts, they are required to administer standardized tests. However, by law, parents are allowed to opt students out of such testing.

If I enroll my child in a correspondence program, is my student required to take critical race theory, social and emotional learning, etc.?

If you choose the full-time private school option, your child be subject to the curriculum of that private school. A few private schools may require these topics, but our experience is that most do not. If you decide on a hybrid approach, your family can choose the curriculum and vendors for your child.

How can my child stay or get involved with sports or other school activities?

Some private schools which are CSAP participants have their own sports programs. Under state law, students enrolled in alternative education programs such as CSAP fall under the same eligibility rules for sports and activities as do students at traditional public schools. A student can sign up to participate in sports activities at their zoned neighborhood school, or petition to waive into activities at a different school in their area.

Do CSAP students receive grades?

If you choose the full-time private school option, your child will receive grades from that private school and often the correspondence program will simply accept those grades. Work samples, grades and requirements vary by school.