
I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is for Athlos Academy of Utah to remain compliant with state law by providing easy access to state-specific special needs scholarships for students with eligible Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. The Carson Smith Scholarship Program is a state-funded, special needs voucher program that provides scholarships to K-12 students with disabilities whose needs are not being met by public education services.
 - 1. The scholarship allows eligible students to access a private school for a three year period.
 - 2. After three years an assessment team determines whether or not the student is still eligible and if the scholarship may be renewed.

III. POLICY

- A. Athlos Academy shall post a direct link to the USBE's Carson Smith Scholarship website on its school website.
- B. Athos Academy shall forward all special needs scholarships applications to the USBE no more than 10 days following receipt of the application.
- C. For every application received, Athlos Academy of Utah shall:
 - 1. Verify enrollment of the student seeking a scholarship in the previous school year;
 - 2. Verify the existence of the student's IEP and level of service; and
 - 3. Provide personnel to participate on an assessment team to determine:
 - a. The scholarship amount; and
 - b. If a student previously receiving a special needs scholarship is entitled to receive the scholarship during the subsequent eligibility period.
- D. Athlos Academy of Utah shall cooperate with the USBE in cross-checking special needs scholarship student enrollment information.

Special Needs Scholarships

- E. Athlos Academy of Utah’s notification to students with IEPs, regarding the Carson Smith Scholarship, includes:
1. Written notice to parent/guardian(s) of students who have an IEP of the availability of a scholarship to attend a private school through the special needs scholarship program.
 2. The written notice shall consist of the following statement:
 - a. “School districts and charter schools are required by Utah law, 53A-1a-704(10), to inform parents of students with IEPs enrolled in public schools, of the availability of a scholarship to attend a private school through the Carson Smith Scholarship Program.”
 3. The written notice shall be provided no later than 30 days after the student initially qualifies for an IEP.
 4. The written notice shall be provided annually no later than February 1 to all students who have IEPs.
 5. The written notice shall include the website link to the Carson Smith Scholarship Program that provides prospective applicants and their parent/guardian(s) with program information and application forms.

Legal References:

[Utah Admin R277-602](#)

[Utah Code § 53A-1a-704](#)