



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the *Strong Families, Strong Students* program?

The *Strong Families, Strong Students* program empowers eligible families to securely access Idaho Coronavirus Relief funds that can be used for their children's educational purposes. Eligible purchases include computer hardware, software, and other devices including adaptive learning technology, internet connectivity, instructional materials, fees for courses, tutoring services, educational services and therapies, and licensed daycare during work hours.

Who is eligible for the funds?

ALL Idaho students in grades K-12 from public district and charter schools, as well as private, parochial, and homeschooled students are eligible. Awards will be prioritized based on family 2019 adjusted gross income.

How will this program help students?

COVID-19 has disrupted student learning across the state. As families and schools turn to distance and blended learning, Idaho students need access to the supports necessary to meet their individual learning needs. *Strong Families, Strong Students* will empower families to purchase the educational resources most likely to help their children succeed academically.

How much will eligible families receive?

Each eligible family will have access to \$1,500 per eligible student, with a maximum award of \$3,500 per family.

What can I buy for my student?

Participating Idaho families can use funds from their ClassWallet account to purchase education materials, supplies, services, technology and books from a list of approved vendors in the ClassWallet online marketplace.

A full list of vendors can be found [here](#).

Can I get reimbursed for educational expenses purchased outside of the platform?

Approved families using the ClassWallet platform may seek reimbursement for eligible educational expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. To access this function, once an approved family sets up their account they will need to upload their bank account information for direct deposit. Receipts or invoices indicating the amount paid will be required to access this feature. All request for reimbursements must be made by December 30, 2020.

How will parents or guardians be able to apply for the funds?

Parents and guardians can apply for an award by filling out the application available through the *Strong Families, Strong Students* website (strongfamilies.idaho.gov). Once an application has been submitted and eligibility confirmed, and awards made, funds will be deposited electronically into a ClassWallet account. Families will be provided instructions on how to log into ClassWallet to access and use the funds.

When will I know if I'm approved?

Applications will be accepted through December 8, 2020. Awards will be announced in three waves, with families with adjusted gross incomes of \$50,000 or less being funded first. Award notices to families with an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less will be made approximately two weeks after an application has been submitted and accepted. All funds will be distributed to eligible applicants by December 30, 2020.

If I receive a grant, how long do I have to spend the funds through ClassWallet?

Applicants receiving *Strong Families, Strong Students* awards will have until June 30, 2021 to spend the funds through the ClassWallet platform.

How will this work if my child lives in a split household?

In joint custody cases, the first parent or guardian to submit an application will receive the award for the student. No student may be used to determine eligibility in more than one family.

How much is being spent on this program?

\$50 million of the Coronavirus Relief funds is available for the program. It is estimated over 13,000 awards will be made to eligible Idaho families.

What is being done to prevent fraud?

All vendors integrated into the ClassWallet digital wallet platform have been pre-approved. Families will be able to use grant funds to acquire materials from the approved vendors. This ensures compliance and transparency, as well as, streamlines the processing time for requests. The ClassWallet platform automates the tracking and reconciliation of all the purchases, so there will be no work required by the parents to submit receipts or expense reports when selecting from these vendors. Eligible families will have to provide proof of adjusted gross income by providing their 2019 tax return. Public and private school students will need to provide proof of school enrollment. Families with homeschooled students will need to provide proof of employment for the month of March 2020.

How do providers of such services as tutoring, therapy, and courses connect to be paid by parents through the ClassWallet system?

Service providers will be required to complete an online form and register with ClassWallet. Once a service provider has been approved, they will receive instructions on how to set up their accounts to receive payments.

What, if any, is the appeal process?

Applications that have been determined as being ineligible may submit a request to reconsider the decision to strongfamilies@osbe.idaho.gov. All requests for reconsideration must be received within 5 business days of application rejection.