

Frequently Asked Questions



EMS Education and Training Scholarships in Texas

Background



To support the field of emergency medical services (EMS), the Texas Legislature is providing \$21.7 million to distribute towards funding [EMS education and retention](#).

Scholarships are provided by DSHS to approved EMS education programs or licensed EMS providers.

Scholarships are available based on documented need, with special attention given to rural and underserved areas within Texas. Courses can be in-person, online, or hybrid.

Students



Q: Where can I obtain information about EMS training scholarships that are available in my area of the state?

A: Use [this map](#) to identify the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) that serves your county and contact them to request information about available EMS scholarships in your area.

Q: What can be paid for using scholarship funds?

A: Scholarship funds can be used towards your education, education material and the ability to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination for the first time only.

Q: What cannot be paid for using scholarship funds?

A: Scholarship funds cannot be used towards your student uniform, lab coat, required equipment, etc. or towards your state certification.

Q: Can I receive education to move from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) consecutively, and receive funding?

A: Yes.

Q: I have one year left on my volunteer/employment obligation in this program. I accept another job offer with an out-of-state ambulance. What happens?

A: Contact the [Regional Advisory Council](#) office or the [EMS-Trauma Systems Unit](#). Funding will need to be returned to the sponsoring agency or entity.





Students (Cont.)

Q: What happens to my tuition or any remaining balance if the education program closes without notice and I cannot finish my course? Who do I contact for help?

A: You can contact the [Regional Advisory Council](#) that processed the scholarship or the [EMS-Trauma Systems Unit](#) for assistance with completing the scholarship requirements.

Q: If I'm working or volunteering for a DSHS-licensed EMS provider on an ambulance, community paramedic program, or special event response, will these hours count toward my service requirement?

A: Yes, so long as you are working or volunteering for a current [Texas-licensed EMS](#) provider.



Education Programs

Q: How will programs be able to use awarded incentives? Are there any restrictions or must it go towards direct costs?

A: There are no restrictions on how an EMS Education program uses the awarded incentives.

Q: Does the funding for one National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination include funding for psychomotor (skills) testing at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) and paramedic level?

A: Yes, this includes one skills exam session.

Q: May an education program get the incentive for a non-scholarship student? Example: A community college has twenty students in a paramedic course with two students on scholarship. How much of an incentive payment are they eligible for?

A: Only the students receiving scholarships through the approved education program qualify for the incentive.

Q: What must an EMS education program include when applying for scholarships?

A: The minimum requirement to receive the student scholarship must include tuition, books, and the fee to take the NREMT exam the first time. An EMS education program is not prohibited from providing additional resources to the students.

Q: Who is eligible to receive the scholarship incentive?

A: The EMS education program will receive the incentive through the EMS provider or the regional advisory council (RAC).



EMS Providers

Q: May time employed or volunteering with my local fire department on the fire truck or rescue unit count toward the volunteer or employment obligation?

A: You may only count time volunteering or employed on a Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) [licensed ambulance](#).



EMS Providers (Cont.)

Q: What happens if someone becomes injured on or off the job and cannot complete the obligation to volunteer or work on an ambulance?

A: You may extend the requirement time until they are able to work. If they are unable to work, contact the [Regional Advisory Office](#) that processed the scholarship for assistance.

Q: What happens if a scholarship recipient has not fulfilled their volunteer or employment obligation and accepts a job offer with an out-of-state ambulance service?

A: Contact the [Regional Advisory Council](#) office or the [EMS-Trauma Systems Unit](#); funding will need to be returned to the sponsoring agency or entity.

Q: Are EMS providers that provide 911 and/or inter-facility transports both eligible to receive scholarships under this program?

A: Yes, both are eligible to participate if they are a current [Texas-licensed EMS](#) provider.

Q: Are first responder organizations eligible to participate in this program?

A: The initial scholarship awards are for students working for EMS providers only. The department may review and consider recognized first responder organizations in the future.

Regional Advisory Councils (RACs)

Q: Who is eligible for the funding?

A: All education programs and/or EMS providers currently [licensed by DSHS](#).

Q: May time employed or volunteering with a local fire department on the fire truck or rescue unit count toward the volunteer or employment obligation?

A: No. Funds can only be distributed to DSHS approved education programs and/or EMS providers for the benefit of students participating in the scholarship program.

Q: What happens to scholarship funds if a student does not complete the education program?

A: The EMS education program that received the scholarship can redistribute the funds to additional EMS education resources or participants if the initial recipient cannot complete the process. Please contact the [EMS-Trauma Systems Unit](#) for questions.

Q: What happens with collected funds?

A: The Education Provider or the EMS Provider can redistribute the funds to additional EMS education resources or participants if the initial recipient cannot complete the process. Please contact the EMS-Trauma Systems Unit for questions.

