

## **H.B. 2853 Implementation Plan**

The ESA Program is currently working with the IT team to create a new application eligibility category of “Universal ESA”. We will advise parents as soon as this eligibility category is available, **and we are hoping to have the application ready by early to mid-August.**

- After a complete application is submitted under this new category, **it will be placed “on hold”** and the applicant will receive a communication alerting them that the application will be held until the legislation’s ***anticipated effective date of September 24, 2022.***
- The 30-day period for the Department to act on the application will be paused when this communication is sent out until the legislation takes effect. Once the legislation takes effect, the Department will act on the application within the remaining 30 days.
- After the legislation takes effect, and once a signed ESA contract is received by the Department, ESA staff will work with both the Treasurer’s Office and ClassWallet to open and fund the account. Account set up and funding takes approximately 3 weeks.

Further, we will work with the Treasurer’s Office to establish a process to address the changes made relating to the withdrawal of students from a public school and will work with the Department’s Exceptional Student Services (ESS) leadership on an RFP process for securing approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party special education evaluations.

For purchase requests related to technology, transportation, and consumables that will become allowable once H.B. 2853 takes effect, ESA staff will send a communication advising parents to resubmit the request after the ***anticipated effective date of September 24, 2022.***

- Additionally, the communication will caution parents about making purchases prior to the effective date.
- Until the legislation takes effect, the process for approving technology for a current ESA student with special needs will remain unchanged and as outlined in the ESA Parent Handbook, statute, and rules.

Finally, account notifications regarding suspensions will be modified from 10 days to 15 days, and the website will also be updated to reflect any additional changes related to H. B. 2853.