Q1: Who does the universal ESA expansion include?
A: The expansion will include all Arizona students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Q2: Can I apply now?
A: Yes. However, applications under the new universal category will be temporarily placed on hold until September 24th, as that is the anticipated effective date of the legislation. If and when the legislation takes effect, the Department will begin approving applications and sending contracts.

Q3: My student has special needs. What category should I apply under?
A: If you are applying under the ESA expansion for a student with special needs, select the "Universal" category. You will be able to indicate that your child has an IEP/MET/504 plan. Do not apply under the "K-12 Student with a Disability" category, as public school attendance is required for this type of application. (Note: if you apply under the incorrect category your application will be corrected to ensure eligibility under the new law)

Q4: Does my student still need to meet 45 days of public attendance to qualify?
A: No. Public school attendance is not required under the ESA expansion.

Q5: Can I accept an ESA and keep my student in their public or charter school?
A: No. As part of the ESA contract, you agree to withdraw your student from the public school system, this includes both district and charter schools.

Q6: How much money will my student receive?
A: The amount varies based on several factors, but approximately $6,500 for grades 1-12. Kindergarten students receive approximately $4,000. Students who have a current IEP/MET/504 are eligible to receive additional funding based on their IEP/MET category of eligibility.

Q7: Can I be reimbursed for expenses that I made prior to signing my ESA contract?
A: More information on the reimbursement process will be available on or before September 24th. However, we do know that the new contract will need to signed on or before September 30th in order for expenses made within Quarter 1 (7/1/22-9/30/22) to be considered for reimbursement. Please continue to check our website for the latest information.

Q8: Can ESA funds be used for homeschooling?
A: While ESA funds can be used for home education, ESA students do not file homeschool affidavits and are not considered “homeschool” students by state law.

Q9: Does the expansion affect current ESA program participants?
A: No, the expansion is simply another category of eligibility. The other categories will remain.