



H.B. 2853 Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Who does the universal ESA expansion include?

A: The expansion includes all Arizona students in **Kindergarten through 12th grade**.

Q2: Can I apply now?

A: Yes. The online application is available at www.azed.gov/esa.

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.

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: When can I expect to receive funding?

A: 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. Although it typically takes approximately 3 weeks to set up and fund an account, due to volume, it might take longer. You won't have access to ClassWallet until that time and will receive an email directly from ClassWallet when funds are available for use.

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. If there is already an affidavit on file, it does not need to be withdrawn.**

Q9: Does the expansion affect current ESA program participants?

A: No, the expansion is simply another category of eligibility. Current ESA participants **do not** need to reapply.

Q10: My student currently receives tax credit scholarship funding from a School Tuition Organization (STO), can we also receive ESA funding?

A: Pursuant to [A.R.S.15-2402\(B\)\(3\)](#), you can't participate in the ESA and STO programs for the same time period. This means that once there is a signed contract, **any STO scholarship dollars for the timeframe covered by ESA funds must be returned to the STO.** Thus, if you receive Q1 STO funds, you cannot receive ESA funds for Q1. If you have additional questions related to your student's STO funding, please contact the STO and/or your private school.