



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. This process may take up to a few weeks. You will receive an email when the account is funded.

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. 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\(B\)\(3\)](#), **ESA funds and STO funds cannot used concurrently**. The Arizona Department of Revenue's STO manual states that a student may only utilize an STO scholarship **up until the quarter that the ESA contract is signed**. Once there is a signed contract, any STO scholarship dollars for the timeframe covered under the contract must be returned by the private school to the STO. If you have additional questions related to your student's STO funding, please contact the STO and/or your private school.