



# EMPOWER PARENTS WITH EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

## TXPARENTSMATTER.COM

### QUALIFIED EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES:

ESAs may be used for:

1. tuition & fees at accredited schools;
2. books, instructional supplies, and uniforms;
3. tutoring;
4. academic tests;
5. therapy;
6. fee-for-service transportation; and
7. cocurricular activities.

This flexibility helps parents meet their child's unique needs.

### IN PRACTICE

25 years of studies show that empowering parents helps students. Examples include:

- In 1998, Florida's low-income students ranked #33 in the nation. With choice, today they are #1. College completion increased by 20%.
- Reading and math proficiency increased for choice students in Arizona, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Washington D.C.
- Nearby public schools improve in reading & math, discipline, graduation rates, and college enrollment.

### INTRODUCTION

ESAs empower parents to customize education to their child's unique needs. State law limits spending to qualified educational expenses. Parents decide how ESAs are spent.

### PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

Families could apply for an ESA at least once each semester. Student eligibility is the same as for public schools: Texas children from PK through grade 12 are eligible. If there are more applicants than funds can support, low-income students are prioritized. Participating students do not need to reapply annually; they may participate until high school graduation.

### PARTICIPATING EDUCATORS

Any accredited school or non-profit college can opt-in to serve ESA students. Active or retired teachers from accredited K-12 schools or non-profit colleges can tutor ESA students. Licensed therapists can serve ESA students. Parents may also pay out-of-pocket for qualified educational goods or fee-for-service transportation and be reimbursed from their child's ESA.

### LEGAL PROTECTIONS

ESAs are completely opt-in. There is no requirement for families or educators to participate. Strong legal protections ensure parents and educators can make the best decisions for children. Participants will not be required to modify their creed, practices, admissions or employment policies, curriculum, performance standards, or assessments to serve ESA students. No federal funds will be used.

### ADMINISTRATOR

The comptroller would administer the program with the help of Educational Assistance Organizations (EAOs). Interested educators would apply to the comptroller; students would apply to an EAO. EAOs would also publicize available options and manage account transactions.

### REVENUE SOURCE

ESAs would be funded by state revenue. No federal funds nor funds from Texas' public school accounts (ex. FSP) are used.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

True accountability is the movement of people, time, and talent to the place that can best serve students. ESAs empower parents with a central role in accountability: educators that meet parents' expectations can collaborate directly with families.

In addition, student accounts are held by the EAO and funds may only be used for qualified educational expenses. The program would be independently audited. Spending on non-educational items must be repaid and would result in an ESA's suspension. Educators cannot rebate or refund ESA funds to participants. ESA funds cannot be paid to family members. The local district attorney will be notified of fraudulent use. Finally, an annual report would be published by independent researchers at a Texas college to evaluate the program's academic and financial impact.

## EMPOWER PARENTS NOW!

1. Scan: QR code,
2. Contact your Representative,
3. Ask: empower parents with universal ESAs!



## THE PARENT EMPOWERMENT COALITION:

