



AN INTRODUCTION TO EMPOWERING PARENTS WITH EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

RECOMMENDED QUALIFIED EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES:

ESAs may be used for:

1. tuition or fees at accredited schools and colleges;
2. tutoring;
3. books, instructional supplies, and uniforms;
4. cocurriculars related to classroom instruction;
5. academic tests;
6. therapy and technology for disabled students; and
7. fee-for-service transportation.

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 and parents decide how funds are spent.

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

Texas children from PK through grade 12 are eligible to apply for an ESA. If there are more applicants than funds can support, low-income and disabled 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 expenses and be reimbursed.

LEGAL PROTECTIONS

ESAs are completely opt-in. There is no requirement for families, schools, or tutors to participate. Strong legal protections ensure parents and educators can make the best decisions for children: participants will not be required to modify their values, instruction, curriculum, admission or employment policies. 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 help participating families find options in their community 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

The goal of accountability is children's success. Parents and teachers are the most important people in a child's success, but conversations about "accountability" rarely depend on their perspective. With ESAs, parents and teachers collaborate

directly to provide children the instruction and support they need, when they need it. This is effective accountability.

ESAs provide financial safeguards and transparency: funds are held in a program account, may only be used for qualified educational expenses, and the program would be independently audited. Spending on non-qualified educational items would result in suspension.

ESAs provide academic transparency: an annual report would be published by independent researchers to evaluate the program's academic and financial impact, including on: student enrollment and waitlists; family satisfaction; assessment results; financial impact; and college, career, and military readiness.

EMPOWER PARENTS NOW!

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



THE PARENT EMPOWERMENT COALITION

