



HOUSE BILL 1, COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

THE HOUSE PLAN FOR EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

ESA EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES:

In the most recent draft of HB 1, ESA funds may be used for:

1. tuition or fees at any accredited school or college in Texas;
2. books, instructional supplies, and uniforms;
3. academic tests;
4. individualized tutoring;
5. fee-for-service transportation;
6. therapy and technology for disabled students;
7. school meals; and
8. academic programs before or after school.

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

Parents should have access to the learning environment that best serves their children. To increase education options, 31 states maintain education choice programs; of these, 16 offer ESAs and 10 offer universal ESAs for all children. ESAs funds can be used to pay for tuition at any accredited school of a parent's choosing, as well as for any educational expense shown at the left. HB 1 proposes an ESA value of about \$10,400 annually.

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

Families could apply for an ESA once each semester. All Texas children from Kinder through grade 12 are eligible. If there are more applicants than funds can support, disabled and low-income students are prioritized. Participating students do not need to reapply annually; they may participate until 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.

LEGAL PROTECTIONS

ESAs are completely opt-in. There is no requirement to participate. Legal protections ensure parents and educators can make the best decisions for children. The program cannot limit religious practices, nor can it require modifications of: how teachers teach or what curriculum schools use; school admissions or enrollment policies; or employment practices, policies, and standards. No federal funds would be used.

ADMINISTRATOR

The Comptroller would administer the program with the help of Educational Assistance Organizations (EOOs). Interested schools, tutors, colleges, therapists, and other vendors would apply to the Comptroller. EOOs would host the student application process, help families find and choose the best learning environment, 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, ASF, IMTF) are used.



ACCOUNTABILITY

The goal of accountability is children's educational 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 also 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 annually. Spending on non-qualified items would be repaid and would result in ESA suspension. Finally, ESAs provide academic transparency: an annual report would be published 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. Call your Representative,
3. Ask: empower parents with universal ESAs!



THE PARENT EMPOWERMENT COALITION

