

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

A New Opportunity: Texas Education Savings Accounts (ESA)



What Is an Education Savings Account (ESA)?

The Texas Education Savings Account (ESA) program allows eligible families to **access \$1 Billion dollars of public funds for private education-related expenses**. Families can use ESAs for **tuition, fees, instructional materials, tutoring, therapies, transportation, and technology**.

When Does the Program Start?

The program begins in the **2026–2027 school year**.

Is My Child Eligible for an ESA?

Yes, every child in Texas who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident and can attend a Texas public school is eligible to apply! Enrollment will be limited to the \$1 Billion in state program funds.

What If Applications Go Over the \$1 Billion Available?

Priority will go to: **1)** Siblings, **2)** Students with disabilities from low- and middle-income families, **3)** Students from low-income families, **4)** Students from middle-income families, **5)** Then everyone else.

How Much Can My Child Receive Each Year?

1) Approximately **\$10,000 per student** enrolled in an accredited private school, **2)** **Up to \$30,000** for students with disabilities, **3)** **\$2,000 for students** not in an accredited private school to use on qualifying expenses.

Which Schools, Programs and Services Can I Use ESA Money for?

Your ESA funds can be used for: **1)** Private school tuition and fees at participating private schools or private child care providers that meet program standards, **2)** Online education programs, **3)** Industry credential programs, **4)** Private tutors and educational therapists, **5)** Instructional materials and technology, **6)** Transportation costs.

How and When Can I Apply? When Will I Find Out if My Child Is Accepted?

You can **sign up on the Best Place for Students™ website** – we'll notify you as soon as the application becomes available (likely January 2026)! **(Sign me up for notifications!)** Once accepted, you will receive electronic access to manage your child's ESA account. **It's that easy – and there is no fee to apply!**

If I Use an ESA, Does My Child Have to Take the STAAR Test?

No, students are NOT required to take the STAAR test. Private schools are already required to give their students a nationally norm-referenced test each year in reading and math.

If I Stay at My Public School will I Still be Eligible for the ESA?

No, you will only be eligible if you are not attending a traditional public school or public charter school.

What grades are included?

Pre-K–12. However, Pre-K students must qualify for free Pre-K to use ESA funds.

