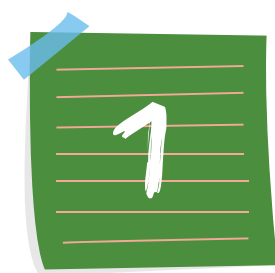




## Educational Savings Accounts ESAs



### What is an ESA?



The ESA program makes funds available to "support the success of every K-12 student in Iowa." The program allows families to use those funds for the school of their choice.

### Who qualifies for an ESA (2023-2024)



- All students entering kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.
- All students who transfer in from a public school.
- Private school students at or below the 300% Poverty Level. (Check the back for future years.)

### When do I begin the application process?



The application will be open in late May. All parents will be notified by email, on Facebook, and on the school website when the application opens. **THE HARD DEADLINE TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION WILL BE JUNE 30, 2023.**

### How do I fill out the application?



Parent training will be available to assist in filling out the ESA application to make the enrollment experience as easy as possible. The demonstration showed the process to be simple and last no more than 10-15 minutes.



# **What is an Education Savings Account?**

An Education Savings Account (ESA) is a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts which eligible families may use to cover tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses at accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa. Parents who enroll their eligible children in an accredited nonpublic school will receive an estimated \$7,598 per pupil for the 2023- 2024 school year. Funds are deposited into the student's ESA each year until the student graduates high school or turns 20. At that time, the remaining balance is returned to the state's general fund.

## **Should I apply for STO if I qualify to receive an ESA?**

Yes, all eligible families who meet the income guidelines should apply for STO. Eligible families who meet these income guidelines will need to complete a FACTS application no later than April 15 to be placed in the first round. The application will be used to determine eligibility for both STO and local tuition assistance. Families who meet these income guidelines are asked to apply for tuition assistance even if they qualify for an ESA. The ESA process and timeframe for the distribution of funds will be sent out to parents at a later date.

## **If we have a separation of Church and State, how can the state fund ESAs?**

School choice is constitutional at the federal level and in most states. In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that public funding can be allocated to a family to spend on a child's K-12 schooling, including faith-based education (EdChoice, 2023). This legislation provides parents with the right to choose the best educational options for their child.

## **Will class sizes increase dramatically?**

We know parents value personal attention for their students and a close-knit community. Class size guidelines will be set at 16 students per classroom, not to exceed 18. We will welcome new students in grades with open seats according to our current enrollment process. We are excited to be adding a Transitional Kindergarten classroom for the 2023-2024 school year to meet the growing enrollment needs in our lower elementary. We will be hiring an additional 5th grade teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

## **How does this legislation benefit all students in Iowa?**

Our public school partners will receive an additional \$1,205 of funding for each student that is enrolled in an accredited non-public school that resides in their district.

### **YEAR 2 of ESA Implementation 2024-2025**

- All students entering kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year and returning 1st graders.
- All students who transfer in from a public school.
- Private school students at or below the 400% Poverty Level.

### **YEAR 3 of ESA Implementation 2025-2026**

All students in the state of Iowa regardless of income.