



## H.B. 2853 Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q1: Who does the universal ESA expansion include?**

**A:** The expansion will include all Arizona students in **Kindergarten through 12th grade**.

### **Q2: Can I apply now?**

**A:** Yes. However, applications under the new universal category will be temporarily placed on hold until **September 24th**, as that is the anticipated effective date of the legislation. If and when the legislation takes effect, the Department will begin approving applications and sending contracts.

### **Q3: My student has special needs. What category should I apply under?**

**A:** If you are applying under the ESA expansion for a student with special needs, select the "**Universal**" category. You will be able to indicate that your child has an IEP/MET/504 plan. **Do not apply under the "K-12 Student with a Disability"** category, as **public school attendance is required** for this type of application. (Note: if you apply under the incorrect category your application will be corrected to ensure eligibility under the new law)

### **Q4: Does my student still need to meet 45 days of public attendance to qualify?**

**A:** No. Public school attendance is not required under the ESA expansion.

### **Q5: Can I accept an ESA and keep my student in their public or charter school?**

**A:** No. As part of the ESA contract, you agree to *withdraw your student from the public school system, this includes both district and charter schools*.

### **Q6: How much money will my student receive?**

**A:** The amount varies based on several factors, but approximately \$6,500 for grades 1-12. Kindergarten students receive approximately \$4,000. Students who have a **current** IEP/MET/504 are eligible to receive additional funding based on their IEP/MET category of eligibility.

### **Q7: Can I be reimbursed for expenses that I made prior to signing my ESA contract?**

**A:** More information on the reimbursement process will be available on or before **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. However, we do know that the new contract will need to be signed on or before **September 30<sup>th</sup>** in order for expenses made within Quarter 1 (7/1/22-9/30/22) to be considered for reimbursement. Please continue to check our website for the latest information.

### **Q8: Can ESA funds be used for homeschooling?**

**A:** While ESA funds can be used for home education, ESA students **do not file homeschool affidavits and are not considered "homeschool" students by state law**.

### **Q9: Does the expansion affect current ESA program participants?**

**A:** No, the expansion is simply another category of eligibility. **The other categories will remain**.