



JOIN THE ACSTO FAMILY

We exist to make Christian Education affordable for everyone

ACSTO
Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization



SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

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WELCOME TO THE ACSTO FAMILY!

ACSTO considers it a great privilege to partner with your family as you choose to enroll your children in a Christian School. Our passion is to build the body of Christ, which is why we partner with only Christian Schools.

Our mission is to help parents understand how they can afford a Christian Education for their children. Since ACSTO began in 1998, we have worked diligently to help parents learn how Arizona's Private School Tax Credit Program works and how they can best take advantage of it.

For the past 26 years, we have provided scholarships for thousands of students, giving them an education in an environment where they not only learn, but they develop and grow in their relationship with Christ—the only relationship that will never fail them!

ACSTO PROMISES TO:

- Always operate based on godly principles
- Fight for a parent's right to choose a Christian Education for their child
- Make Christian Education affordable for all
- Provide the resources families need to make the most of the Private School Tax Credit Program

We are very blessed God has given us a role in your Christian Education journey.



STEVE YARBROUGH
Executive Director

WHY ACSTO?

Parents, schools, and donors have trusted us for more than 26 years to help make Christian Education affordable for everyone. **Why?** Because we operate on biblical principles, exercise transparency, and go to great lengths to protect a parent's right to choose the best educational option for their child.



DISTINCTLY CHRISTIAN

Our passion is Christian Education. We work tirelessly to build God's kingdom through Christian Schools!



GOOD STEWARDS

By law we are required to award 90% of all donations we receive; we actually award 92%! We have received Charity Navigator's top Four-Star rating for seven consecutive years.



LARGEST STO IN ARIZONA

Since the Tax Credit Program began, ACSTO has received the most Individual donations, accounting for at least 20% of total donors among all STOs.



SCHOOL CHOICE CHAMPIONS

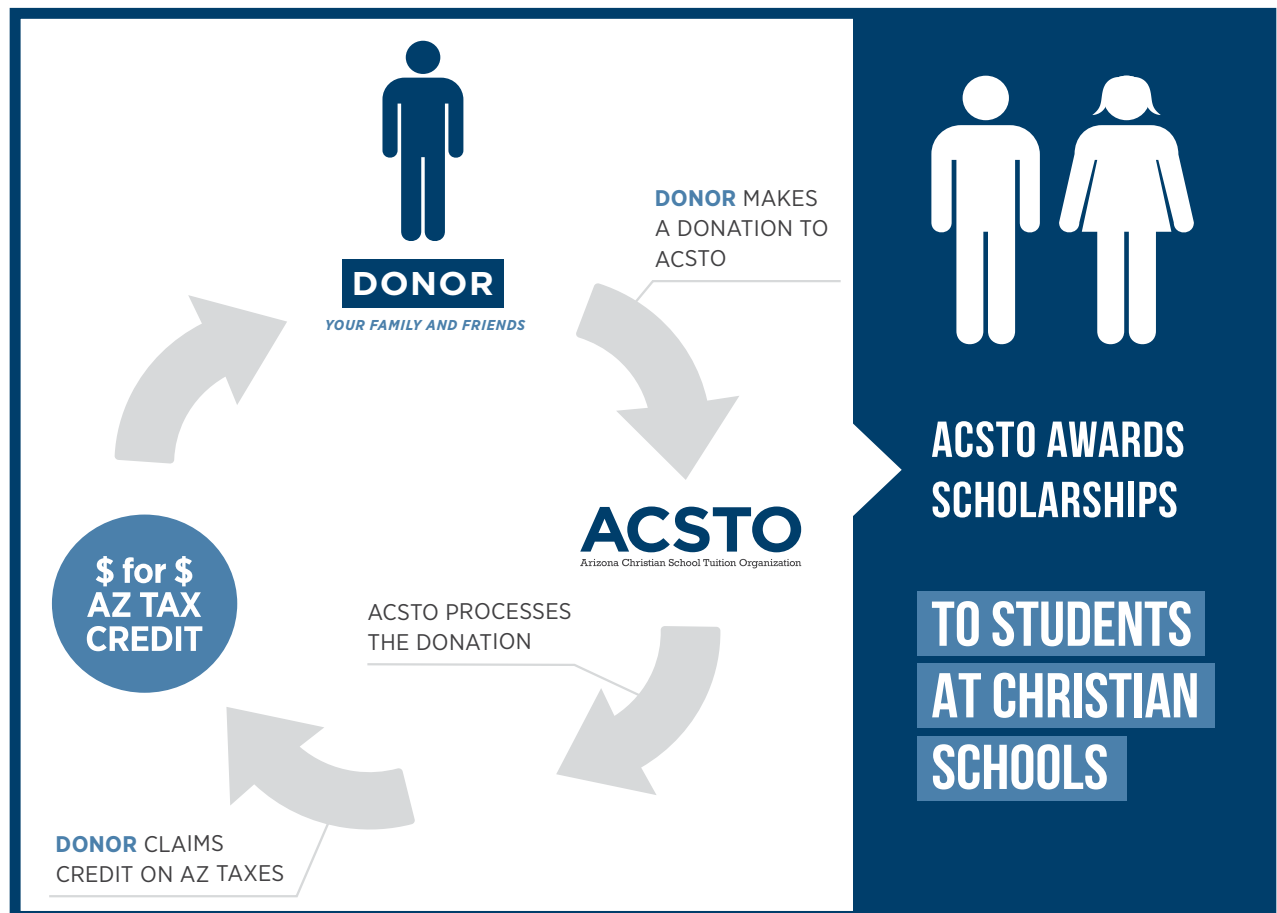
Our leadership stays continuously engaged with policymakers and school choice advocates to promote educational freedom for parents, both through choice and affordability.

HOW IT WORKS

The more you understand about how the Private School Tax Credit Program works, the easier it is to communicate the advantages of this great opportunity to others. Arizona taxpayers can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit when they donate to ACSTO, which goes against what they would normally pay as a state tax payment, or up to the current tax credit maximums (whichever is less).

When donors give, they may recommend a specific student to be considered for a scholarship, or they may identify a school and their donation will be awarded to students at that specific school. Therefore, the best way to maximize tax credit scholarships is to invite people you know to take advantage of receiving a dollar-for-dollar tax credit by donating to ACSTO and recommending your student(s) to be considered for a scholarship.

ACSTO awards 92% of donated funds to students attending one of our Partner Schools. Currently, we partner with approximately 130 Christian Schools in Arizona.



ATTEND A ZOOM PARENT WORKSHOP

Learn how to make Christian Education affordable for your family by registering for a Zoom Parent Workshop. During this one-hour workshop, we will discuss:

1. How to maximize tax credit scholarships & ESAs
2. Our application & award process
3. Steps to make the Tax Credit Program work for YOU



**SIGN UP
TODAY!**



acsto.org/parents/workshops

We also host Parent Workshops at some of our Partner Schools. Check with your school to see if they have an ACSTO Parent Workshop scheduled on your campus.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Private School Tax Credit laws provide four different tax credit scholarships for Kindergarten – 12th grade students attending private schools. Students are eligible to receive any of these four scholarships as long as they meet the qualifications specified for each one. Preschool students with disabilities may also qualify for these scholarships. They must have an MET or IEP from an Arizona public school.

ACSTO provides the two Individual Tax Credit Scholarships, **Original and Overflow (Switcher)**, which are funded by Individual taxpayers.

To be considered for these scholarships, an ACSTO Scholarship Application must be completed and the student must be enrolled in a Partner School. **Apply at acsto.org/parents/apply-now.**

Please complete the following questionnaire to determine if your student qualifies for Original or Overflow Tax Credit Scholarships.



ORIGINAL INDIVIDUAL TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

If you have at least one “yes,” then your student qualifies for an Original Individual Tax Credit Scholarship!

YES

NO

☐☐

My student is enrolled in a K-12th grade private school

☐☐

My student is a preschooler with disabilities and is receiving services from a private school based on an MET or IEP they received from an Arizona public school *(a copy of the MET or IEP required upon application)*

OVERFLOW (SWITCHER) INDIVIDUAL TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

If you have at least one "yes," then your student qualifies for an Overflow Individual Tax Credit Scholarship!

YES

NO

☐☐

My student attended an Arizona district/charter school for at least 90 days in the previous school year and will now be transferring to a private school *(Public School Verification Form required upon application)*

☐☐

My student is a preschooler with disabilities and is receiving services from a private school based on an MET or IEP they received from an Arizona public school *(a copy of the MET or IEP required upon application)*

☐☐

My student is or will be attending a private school their Kindergarten year *(no documentation required; student must be 5 years old by Dec. 31 of their Kindergarten year)*

☐☐

My student is a dependent of a member of the US Armed Forces who is stationed in Arizona under military orders *(a copy of active military orders required upon application)*

☐☐

My student was homeschooled immediately prior to enrolling in a private school *(Homeschool Verification Form required upon application; see form for additional documentation required)*

☐☐

My student moved to Arizona from out of state immediately prior to enrolling in a private school *(Out of State School Verification Form required upon application)*

☐☐

My student participated in the ESA program and did not renew or accept the scholarship in order to accept STO scholarships *(a copy of documentation from the AZ Dept. of Education stating the ESA was not renewed or was closed required upon application)*

☐☐

My student has remained continuously enrolled in a private school since they received an Overflow and/or Corporate Scholarship *(Scholarship Verification Form required upon application if ACSTO was not the awarding STO)*

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

(continued)

School Choice Arizona, ACSTO's sister organization, provides the other two tax credit scholarships, **Disabled/Displaced and Low-Income**. These scholarships are funded by Corporate taxpayers. That means C corps, S corps, LLCs that file like an S corp, companies that pay insurance premiums, and banks can take advantage of the dollar-for-dollar tax credit just like Individual taxpayers can. While the donation process is very different, the benefit is the same.

To be considered for these scholarships, a School Choice Arizona Scholarship Application must be completed and the student must be enrolled in a Partner School. **Apply at schoolchoicearizona.org/application-intro.**

Please complete the following questionnaire to determine if your student qualifies for Disabled/Displaced or Low-Income Tax Credit Scholarships.



DISABLED/DISPLACED CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIP

If you have at least one "yes," then your student qualifies for a Disabled/Displaced Corporate Scholarship!

YES

NO

☐☐

My K-12 student has an MET, IEP, or 504 plan from an Arizona public school (*a copy of documentation required upon application*)

☐☐

My K-12 student is or was in the Arizona foster care system (*Displaced Verification Form required upon application*)

☐☐

My student is a preschooler with disabilities and is receiving services from a private school based on an MET or IEP they received from an Arizona public school (*a copy of the MET or IEP required upon application*)

LOW-INCOME CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIP

If your Household Annual Gross Income is **less** than the amount for your household size in the chart below **AND** you have at least one “yes,” then your student qualifies for a Low-Income Corporate Scholarship!

Household Size	Household Gross Income	Household Size	Household Gross Income
2	\$69,956	6	\$143,608
3	\$88,369	7	\$162,021
4	\$106,782	8	\$180,434
5	\$125,195	Each Additional Person	\$18,413

24-25 INCOME MAXIMUMS

YES

NO

☐
☐

My student attended an Arizona district/charter school for at least 90 days (or one full semester) in the previous school year or the first semester of the current school year and will now be transferring to a private school (*Public School Verification Form required upon application*)

☐
☐

My student is a preschooler with disabilities and is receiving services from a private school based on an MET or IEP they received from an Arizona public school (*a copy of the MET or IEP required upon application*)

☐
☐

My student is or will be attending a private school their Kindergarten year (*no documentation required; student must be 5 years old by Dec. 31 of their Kindergarten year*)

☐
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My student is a dependent of a member of the US Armed Forces who is stationed in Arizona under military orders (*a copy of active military orders required upon application*)

☐
☐

My student was homeschooled immediately prior to enrolling in a private school (*Homeschool Verification Form required upon application; see form for additional documentation required*)

☐
☐

My student moved to Arizona from out of state immediately prior to enrolling in a private school (*Out of State School Verification Form required upon application*)

☐
☐

My student participated in the ESA program and did not renew or accept the scholarship in order to accept STO scholarships (*a copy of documentation from the AZ Dept. of Education stating the ESA was not renewed or was closed required upon application*)

☐
☐

My student has remained continuously enrolled in a private school since they received an Original, Overflow, and/or Low-Income Corporate Scholarship (*Scholarship Verification Form required upon application if School Choice Arizona was not the awarding STO*)



480.722.7502



info@schoolchoicearizona.org



schoolchoicearizona.org

GETTING STARTED

Apply for Scholarships

1. CREATE YOUR PARENT PORTAL

- You may set up a Parent Portal at anytime, even if your student will not be enrolled until the next school year.
- Visit parent.acsto.org, click “Register,” and complete the form.
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email within 15 minutes.
You must click on the link in this email to complete the registration process!

2. ADD YOUR STUDENT(S)

- Log in to your Parent Portal and click “Students” on the left side.
- Click “Add Student” and complete the information.

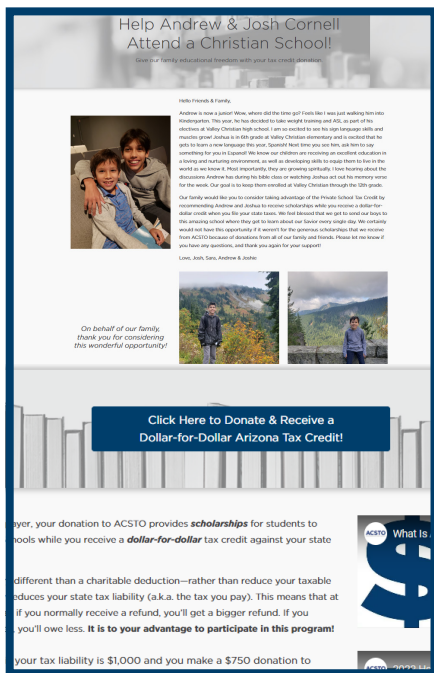
3. COMPLETE A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR EACH STUDENT

- Click “Apply” on the left side, then scroll down to “Student Information.”
- Choose the student you are applying for, select the correct application year, and complete the form.
- Write a student Narrative. Visit acsto.org/parents/resources for helpful suggestions.
- Complete the Financial Information by entering your household size and the income for each person.
Please read this information thoroughly. If you have questions, call our office at 480.820.0403 and speak to one of our Customer Service Specialists.
- Review the qualifications for Overflow Scholarships. If your student qualifies, check the appropriate box and follow the instructions.

4. REVIEW

- Review the application, then click “Submit.”
- Watch for an email confirming your application was received and is being processed.

Create a Family Page



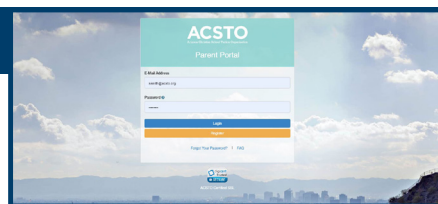
Your ACSTO Family Page is a custom page featuring your student(s). It explains how your friends and family can give a dollar-for-dollar tax credit donation to ACSTO and recommend your student(s) to receive a scholarship! You do not need to submit an ACSTO Scholarship Application to create an ACSTO Family Page; you just need to have a Parent Portal.

When someone donates through your Family Page, your student's name and school will automatically appear in the recommendation fields.

There are so many ways to use your ACSTO Family Page! Try posting the link on your social media or sending it to friends and family in an email or text message. Be creative!

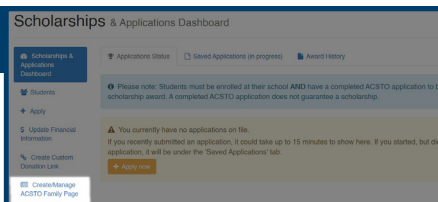
STEP 1

Log in to your Parent Portal



STEP 2

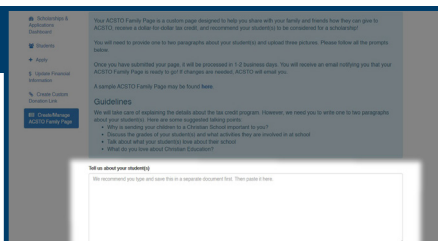
Select "Create/Manage ACSTO Family Page" on the left sidebar



STEP 3

Upload 1-3 photos and write a short narrative about your student

**Please allow 1-2 business days to process your page. You will receive an automated email when your page is ready!*



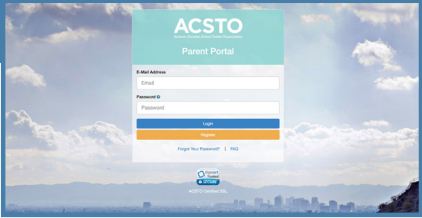
(continued)

Make a Custom Donation Link

Do you have friends and family who are ready to donate and recommend your students? Send them a Custom Donation Link! When someone donates through your Custom Donation Link, your student's name and school will automatically appear in the recommendation fields.

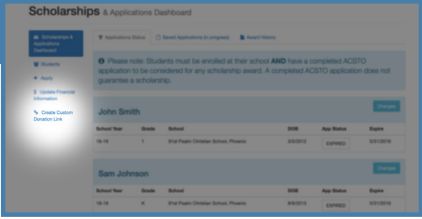
STEP 1

Log in to your Parent Portal



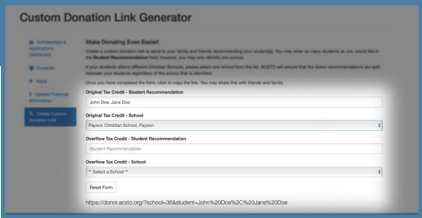
STEP 2

Select “Create Custom Donation Link” on the left sidebar



STEP 3

Fill in the name(s) and the school for your student(s)



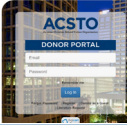
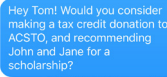
STEP 4

Right click (or highlight) the link and copy it



STEP 5

SEND IT OUT! You can paste the link into an email, text message, or to your social media!



EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT (ESA)

An ESA is an account administered by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and funded by state tax dollars. It consists of 90% of the state funding that would have otherwise been allocated to the school district the student is assigned to attend based on their address. When parents sign an ESA contract, they opt out of the education and services the public education system offers. ESA funds can be used to pay private school tuition, home education and curriculum, tutoring, and more.

Per the current ESA handbook, “Pursuant to A.R.S.§15-2402(B)(3), the Account Holder agrees not to receive any STOs or tax credit scholarships in the same contract year as an ESA.” Therefore, receiving tax credit scholarships from STOs for your student in the same fiscal year as an ESA (fiscal year is July 1 – June 30), is a violation of the law and is grounds for termination or removal from the ESA program.

UNIVERSAL ESA

All K-12 students in Arizona are eligible to receive a Universal ESA, giving parents more educational options for their students.

Funds are distributed quarterly and begin the quarter that the ESA contract is signed. Kindergarten students are eligible for approximately \$4,500/school year. Students in 1st - 12th grade are eligible for approximately \$7,500/school year.

Quarter 1: July 1 - September 30

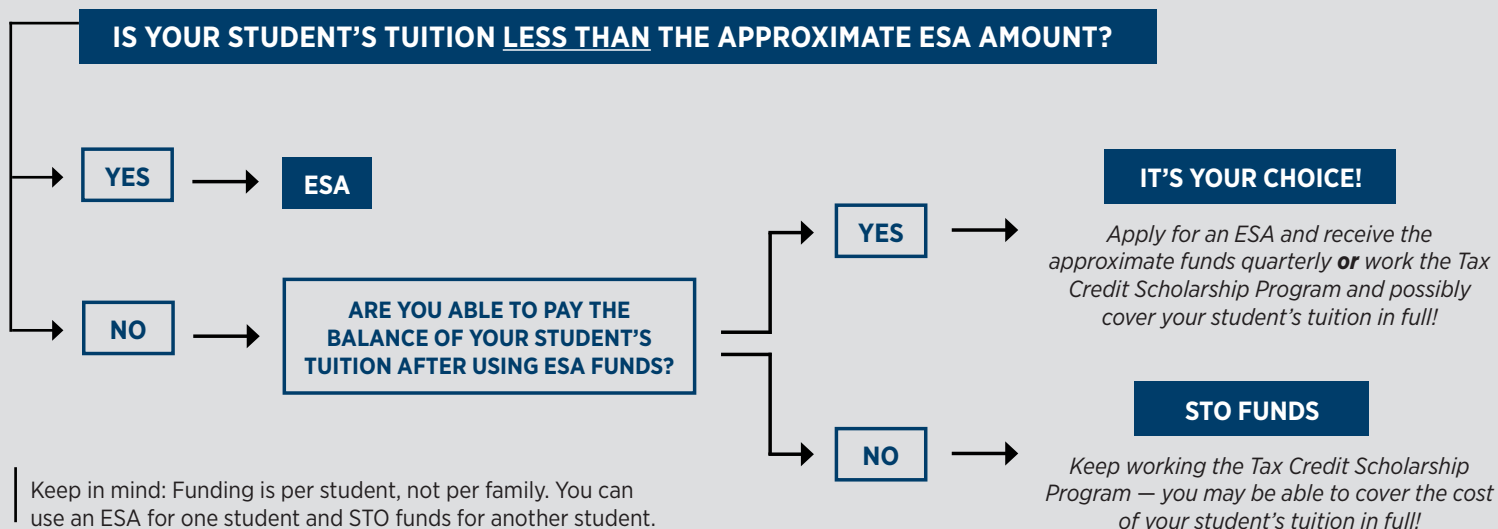
Quarter 3: January 1 - March 31

Quarter 2: October 1 - December 31

Quarter 4: April 1 - June 30

Other ESA eligibility categories include: students in K-12th grade with a disability and students in preschool with a disability.

WHICH FUNDING SOURCE IS THE BEST OPTION FOR YOUR STUDENT— ESA or STO funds?



10 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT ACSTO & ESAs



What is the difference between tax credit scholarships and Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs)?

1

- » Tax credit scholarships and ESAs are two entirely separate tuition funding sources. Tax credit scholarships are funded by private taxpayers and implemented by certified school tuition organizations (STOs). ESAs are funded by state tax dollars and administered through the Arizona Department of Education. Both programs require parents to submit some type of application each academic year.
- » ESAs provide a set amount of funding per quarter which may not cover all tuition costs. The quarter that funding begins is determined by when you apply and sign the ESA contract. With tax credit scholarships, there is a potential for scholarships to cover 100% of tuition costs.
- » ESAs require parents to submit tuition statements (monthly or quarterly) to receive payment. Parents must also pay a 2% processing fee to ClassWallet, reducing the funds available to pay tuition costs. STOs can provide tuition payments throughout the school year as long as the total scholarships paid do not exceed the student's annual tuition amount. ACSTO does not charge any fees to parents, schools, or donors.
- » STOs are allowed to communicate with schools regarding students who are enrolled and their tuition needs. ESA staff can only communicate with parents and cannot provide schools with any information.

Can parents use both tax credit scholarships and ESA funds at the same time as payment for tuition?

2

- » No. Parents cannot simultaneously use tax credit scholarships and ESA funds to pay tuition for the same student. If a parent accepts ESA funds and chooses to use the funds for other expenses such as tutoring or special services, and not tuition, then they must pay their student's tuition out of their own pocket. A student cannot receive ESA funds and tax credit scholarships at the same time regardless of how the parent chooses to spend the ESA funds. This would be a clear violation of the ESA contract.

Which funding source should I choose—ESA or tax credit scholarships?

3

- » Each family's situation is different. Consider the following:
 - The cost of tuition for each student.
 - The anticipated amount the student would receive from each program.
 - Your family's financial ability to pay any outstanding tuition due after ESA funds or tax credit scholarships are applied.
- » If an ESA would fully cover the student's tuition, using an ESA may be the best option. For the 2024-2025 school year, ESA funding is approximately \$4,500 for Kindergarteners and \$7,500 for students in 1st-12th grades, if you signed your contract during Quarter 1.
- » If you choose to use an ESA and the student's tuition exceeds the ESA funding, the parent is responsible for paying any balance due.
- » If your student already received tax credit scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year (or you anticipate receiving tax credit scholarships during future award cycles) in excess of the ESA amounts, continuing to use tax credit scholarships may be your best option.
 - Check your school tuition account or contact your school to determine the total amount of all tax credit scholarships applied to your student's tuition for the current school year.
 - To see the amount ACSTO has awarded your student this school year, log in to your Parent Portal and select Award History.

If I decide to sign an ESA contract, do I need to notify ACSTO and my student's school?

4

- » Yes. As soon as you sign an ESA contract, it is very important to call ACSTO at 480.820.0403 to update your student's record in our database. It is equally important that you inform your school as well.

5

My student received tax credit scholarships for this school year and I signed an ESA contract in the same school year. Can the school keep any of the tax credit scholarships already sent for my student's tuition?

- » No. Per the STO Manual published by The Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR):
 - *Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-2402(B)(3), an ESA account holder agrees to not receive any STO scholarships in the same contract year as an ESA. The ESA contract year is July 1st through June 30th. Once there is a signed ESA contract, all STO monies that have been remitted to a private school for the same contract year must be returned to the STO regardless of when the ESA contract was signed or when the STO remitted scholarship money to a private school for the same academic year.*
- » Therefore, if the parent signs an ESA contract, the school must return ALL tax credit scholarships paid out for the school year to the awarding STO(s) and the parent is then responsible for any balance of tuition owed.

If a parent ends an ESA contract during the school year, can tax credit scholarships be sent to the student's school beginning the quarter after the contract is cancelled?

6

- » Yes. While ACSTO does not encourage the practice of "switching" from an ESA to tax credit scholarships during a school year, under certain circumstances it may benefit a parent financially to cancel their ESA contract to use tax credit scholarships. Per the STO Manual published by the ADOR:
 - *If the parent closes the ESA contract during the school year there will be no conflict for the student to receive an STO scholarship for the remainder of the academic year after the ESA contract was cancelled. Parents that withdraw from the ESA program will receive an email indicating their ESA account is closed which can be provided to the STO for verification.*
 - *STOs are not to award scholarships for a period in which ESA money was received. STO funding may begin the quarter following the ESA contract cancellation. For example, if the ESA contract is cancelled in November (Quarter 2) an STO scholarship can be awarded beginning in January (Quarter 3) to cover Quarters 3 and 4. If a parent cancels their ESA contract prior to receiving and/or spending any ESA funding, an STO may award a scholarship for the same quarter(s) **only if** the parents can provide documentation that no money was received and/or spent. Please note that parents will not be eligible to sign another ESA contract until July 1 of the next contract year.*

7

What happens to tax credit scholarships returned to ACSTO because my student is using an ESA?

- » Funds returned by schools to ACSTO will be held in the student's name as a Multi-Year Scholarship to be used for future tuition at one of our Partner Schools after the ESA is discontinued.
- » **IMPORTANT!** If your student has Multi-Year Scholarship funds being held at ACSTO:
 - The student must stay continuously enrolled at an ACSTO Partner School.
 - The parent must continue to submit an ACSTO Scholarship Application in subsequent school years, even if the student is using an ESA.
- » If these conditions are not met, ACSTO will re-award the student's Multi-Year Scholarship to another student at the same school after 18 months.

8

Can my student still be considered for scholarship awards from ACSTO while receiving ESA funding?

- » If ACSTO has a current Scholarship Application for your student and he/she is enrolled at one of our Partner Schools, they can be considered for and awarded scholarships, however, any awards will be held for the student as a Multi-Year Scholarship since they cannot be sent to the school while the student is accepting ESA funding.

9

Can one child in our family use an ESA and another child use tax credit scholarships?

- » Yes, there is nothing in the law to prevent a family from using an ESA for one child and tax credit scholarships for a different child since both programs are student-based, not family-based.

10

What can I do to learn more about how to afford Christian Education?

- » Attend an ACSTO Parent Workshop where we discuss both ESA and tax credit scholarship opportunities, and how the Tax Credit Program works. Parent Workshops are offered online via Zoom and on many of our Partner School campuses. Visit acsto.org/parents/workshops for details.

CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS

WHAT IS A TAX CREDIT?

acsto.org/donors/what-is-a-tax-credit



HOW MUCH CAN I DONATE?

acsto.org/donors/how-much-can-i-donate



HOW TO CLAIM YOUR TAX CREDIT

acsto.org/donors/claim-your-credit



***Follow us on
Social Media!***

[@acstoconnect](https://www.instagram.com/acstoconnect)



Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization

PO Box 6580
Chandler, AZ 85246



480.820.0403



social@acsto.org



ACSTO.org

NOTICE: A school tuition organization cannot award, restrict, or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of a donor's recommendation. A taxpayer may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer's own dependent. A.R.S. 43-1603 (C). Any designation of your own dependent as a potential recipient is prohibited.