

# 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, students cannot receive STO funds (tax credit scholarships) and ESA funds within the same school year.** Parents need to choose which funding source works best for their financial situation for that specific school year.

## 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.

### APPLY FOR ESA WITH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



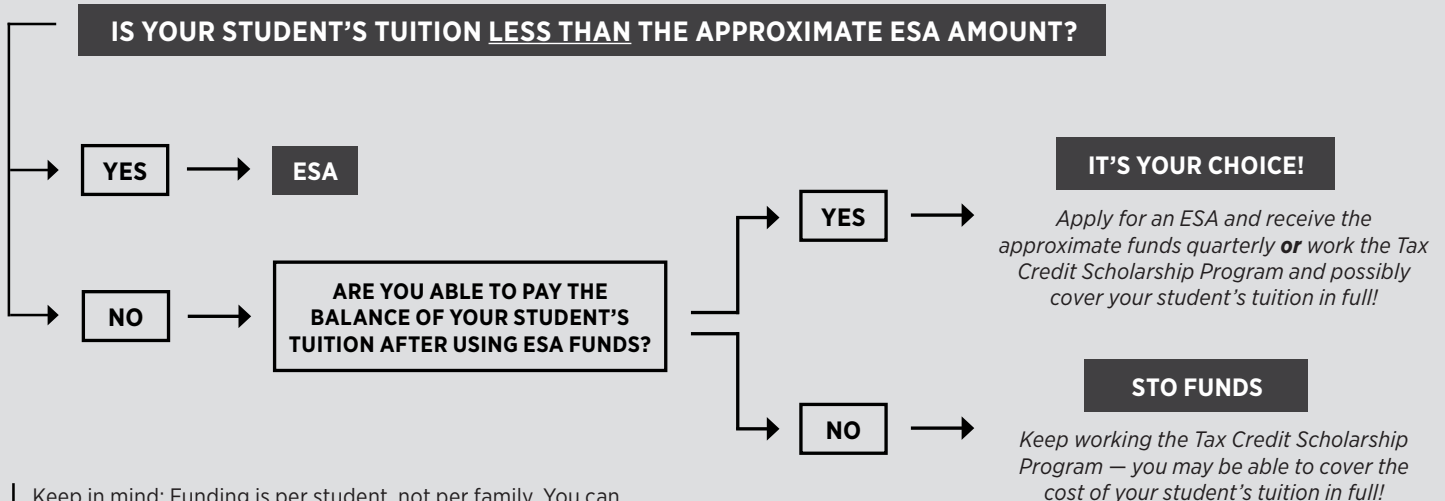
WWW.AZED.GOV/ESA



602.364.1969



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



Keep in mind: Funding is per student, not per family. You can use an ESA for one student and STO funds for another student.