How Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Help Arizona Students

Empowerment Scholarship accounts (ESAs) take a portion of what taxpayers would have spent covering the cost of a student’s education in a K-12 public school and deposit that money into a personalized account that allows the child’s family to use the funds for tutoring, educational therapies, private school tuition, curriculum materials, and other teaching tools.

ESAs serve 6,400+ of Arizona’s most vulnerable students, including:
- Special Needs Kids
- Military Families
- Foster / Adopted Children
- Native American Tribes
- Kids in D- and F-rated schools

ESAs save taxpayers $1,000s per student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avg. ESA Award (Non-Special Ed)</th>
<th>Avg. Public School Cost Per Pupil</th>
<th>$10,100</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$6,100</td>
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ESAs can cover tuition 100% at private elementary schools in AZ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median ESA Award (Non-Special Ed)</th>
<th>Median Private Elementary School Tuition/Fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>$6,200</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
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For more information, visit goldwaterinstitute.org/empowerment
ESAs can give special needs students $25,000+ per year while still saving taxpayers money compared to public school costs.

ESAs serve over 800 students from military families — the single largest group of ESA beneficiaries outside of special needs children.

99% of ESA funds are used by families as intended. ESAs have a far lower rate of improper payments than other government initiatives like the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

ESAs increase public school per pupil funding by giving back over $600 per participant to public schools via the Classroom Site Fund and other state dollars.

ESAs give hope to those without options.

More than 400 students from Native American reservations are using an ESA. In these communities, public school spending can reach $16,000 per student while still offering only D- and F-rated public schools.

ESAs are helping low-income communities. ESAs serve higher and lower income communities in the same proportions as public schools overall.

The three districts with the highest concentrations of ESA students have child poverty rates as high as 46%, more than double the state average.

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