

A new program to assist families who have a child enrolled in special education services is anticipated to be available in the 2022-2023 school year. The Indiana Education Scholarship Account Program (INESA), managed by the state treasurer's office, will allow eligible parents/guardians to establish an education scholarship account (ESA) that can be used for their child's education expenses.

Parents/guardians who establish an ESA will receive 90% of the basic state tuition support allotted to their child. In addition, if their child receives special education services in a location outside of their geographically assigned school corporation, they will receive 100% of special education dollars allotted to their child.

### Who will be eligible?

To be eligible for an ESA account a student must:

- Have a disability that requires special education services and have an individualized education plan (IEP), service plan (SP), or a choice special education plan.
- Choose NOT to enroll in a public school or receive an Indiana Choice Scholarship
- Meet the annual income qualification, currently 300% of the federal poverty limit, or receive free or reduced lunch.

### Are current non-public school students eligible?

Yes, current non-public school students can apply to participate in the ESA program as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

### Who will *not* be eligible?

Students enrolled at a traditional public or public charter school are not eligible for the INESA program. (However, eligible students can use their ESA account to buy services from a traditional public or public charter school.)

### What can the ESA funds be used for?

ESA funds must be used for pre-approved educational purposes only. Qualified expenses include:

- Educational services
- Tuition and fees at an approved non-public school, public school, or other participating entities, such as private tutoring
- Physical, occupational, speech, and ABA therapy
- Paraprofessionals or educational aides
- Additional services or therapies as prescribed by the student's physician
- Tuition and fees to attend training programs and camps focusing on vocational, academic, life, independence, or soft job skills

- Services contracted for and provided by the school corporation, charter, magnet, or non-public school, such as individual classes, extracurricular activities, or additional programs, resources, or staffing as part of the student's individualized learning plan
- Transportation fees
- Fees for certain student assessments
- Fees for the management of the ESA account

### **Does every non-public school accept the ESA program?**

No. Only non-public schools that have applied for and been approved to be an ESA accepting school can participate in the program. A list of approved schools will be available soon.

### **What is the difference between the Indiana Choice Scholarship and the INESA Program?**

An Indiana Choice Scholarship can only be used to cover tuition and fees at non-public, voucher-accepting schools. An ESA can be used to cover tuition and fees at a non-public, INESA-accepting school. Any remaining funds after the cost of tuition and fees can be used for pre-approved educational expenses.

In addition, instead of using ESA funds at a non-public school, parents/guardians can opt to customize their child's education through the use of tutors, therapies, services, and other pre-approved educational expenses.

### **What if services I want are not listed on the list of pre-approved expenses?**

You can submit requests for services that are not preapproved to the state treasurer's office.

### **How will ESA funds be distributed?**

Indiana's state treasurer will contract with a third party to administer ESA funds via an online portal. Funds will be distributed quarterly to the ESA. You will have access to an account for each eligible child in your household.

### **How do I apply for the INESA program and what is the deadline?**

Applications for families of eligible students and emancipated eligible students are forthcoming. When they become available, there will be direct links on the state treasurer's website at [in.gov/tos/inesa](https://in.gov/tos/inesa)

### **Does an ESA last the entirety of my child's education?**

No. An application must be submitted each year and you must continue to meet eligibility requirements.

### **Watch for Continued Updates**

The Arc of Indiana is a part of a stakeholder group facilitated by the state treasurer's office. This group of stakeholders is developing guidance for schools and families accepting and utilizing these accounts. We will continue to share information on these newly established accounts. You can also find information on the state treasurer's website at [in.gov/tos/inesa](https://in.gov/tos/inesa)