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Eligible parents/guardians who have a child enrolled in special education services at a non-public school (and do not receive an Indiana Choice Scholarship) can apply to establish an Education Scholarship Account (ESA) to be used for their child's education expenses.

Indiana's new Education Scholarship Account Program (Indiana ESA) allows eligible families who establish an ESA to 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.

Families who choose this option should be aware that children enrolled in a non-public school do not have protections provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including due process rights.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for an ESA account a student must:

- Be between the ages of 5-22 years old
- Have a disability that requires special education services and have an individualized education plan (IEP), individualized service plan (ISP), or a choice school education plan (CSEP)
- 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 is *not* be eligible?

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

How do I apply for the Indiana ESA program?

You will need to complete an online application at in.gov/tos/inesa and submit:

- Student's birth certificate
- Proof of address
- Copy of the student's:
 - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
 - Individualized Service Plan (ISP)
 - or Choice School Education Plan (CSEP)
- Proof of income

What can 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
- Therapies such as physical, occupational, speech, and ABA therapy
- Additional services or therapies as prescribed by the student's physician
- Paraprofessionals or educational aides
- Tuition and fees to attend training programs and camps focusing on vocational, academic, life, independence, or soft job skills. This includes Camp EGTI, a summer program of The Arc of Indiana Foundation's [Erskine Green Training Institute](#).
- 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 assessments

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.

What is the difference between the Indiana Choice Scholarship and the Indiana ESA 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, Indiana ESA 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 I would like to use a provider who is not approved?

You may submit requests for service providers to the Indiana ESA team by emailing esa@tos.in.gov. The team will contact the provider for more information about the program and how to apply.

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.

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

Accounts must be renewed annually to ensure all account holders continue to meet the eligibility requirements. Preference will be given to account holders from the previous year.