

FACTS ABOUT THE ESA PROGRAM

LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE [ARIZONA EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT PROGRAM \(ESA'S\)](#)

MYTHS VS. TRUTHS

MYTH

“Public” tax dollars cannot go to private schools!

TRUTH

Per the Arizona Republic, currently half of all Arizona public school districts today are sending public school students to private schools because the public school could not provide adequate service. Education dollars belong to the student so the money should follow the child. They should be able to use it towards the education model that best fits their needs. We should fund students NOT school systems!

MYTH

There is no accountability for private schools like there are in district public schools!

TRUTH

Parents are the ultimate accountability measure as they will hold the school accountable because they have their child's best interest in mind. Private schools in Arizona have significant accountability measures which is why they are so popular amongst parents.

MYTH

You're going to decimate our public schools by letting hundreds of thousands of new kids qualify, tripling or quadrupling the number of students who are eligible!

TRUTH

A child should not be forced to attend a government public school that is not working for them just to keep the status quo in place. Children only get one shot at their future so they should be able to receive the best education that fits their individual needs. Currently, approximately 47,000 students are in the ESA program which is a small fraction of the 1.1 million K-12 students Arizona.

MYTH

Voters overwhelmingly voted down a large-scale ESA expansion once already, we should respect the will of the voters and not allow any ESA expansions!

TRUTH

The previous initiative was voted down because it limited the ESA program and it did not go far enough to support education freedom. This is validated by the fact that 75% of Arizona voters support school choice programs including 78% of minorities.

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“My schools are fine, and so are the majority of district public schools, so school choice isn’t really needed”.

TRUTH

Just because something works for one family, does not mean it works for all families. Education is not a ‘one-size-fits-all’. Children learn differently and their needs may change so they need all education options available. Over 20 years ago, the same opponents to school choice opposed open enrollment and charter schools but now today they embrace them.

MYTH

Funding is the problem. If only district public schools had more money, they could be fixed and families would not have to leave.

TRUTH

Currently K-12 funding is at record high in Arizona. Per pupil funding for government district schools is at approximately \$14,500. ESA funded students receive half of that amount at only about \$7,000 per year.

MYTH

The cost of private school is too high for many families, so even if they had an ESA they could not afford to pay the balance or afford transportation to the new school!

TRUTH

About half of all private schools' tuition is at or below the current ESA amount of \$7,000 and families can also use ESA funds to pay for transportation costs. Additionally, this is not a public vs. private school debate since parents use ESA's for other educational options including home-based learning, online curriculum, tutoring programs, and more!

MYTH

If a child leaves a public school district the school will lose all of that child's education funding!

TRUTH

If a student chooses to use an ESA and leaves their public school district, a significant portion of their education dollars still remain in that district. This means the school district would have received more funding but now would have one less student to educate which will help lower class sizes. Remember, ESA students receive half the funding of what district students receive. This is an overall savings to the education system.