

# EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT AT A GLANCE

## WHAT IS AN EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT?

An Education Savings Account (ESA) is a new state program that gives families access to funds (~\$10,000 per child) to use for approved educational expenses, including Catholic school tuition, uniforms, technology, tutoring and more.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Any student who is eligible to enroll in a Texas public school may apply. This includes students currently in public, private, or homeschool settings, as well as those entering kindergarten. ESAs will be distributed through a lottery system, so every eligible family is encouraged to submit an application.

## WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM START?

Applications open in January 2026, with funds available for the 2026–2027 school year.

## HOW DO ESA'S HELP CATHOLIC FAMILIES?

For many families, tuition cost has been the biggest barrier to Catholic education. With ESAs, the doors to Catholic schools are more open than ever—making an excellent, faith-filled education possible for more children.

## CAN CURRENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES APPLY?

Yes. If your child is eligible to enroll in a Texas public school, you may apply for an ESA—even if your child is already attending a Catholic school.

## DO I STILL NEED TO APPLY FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE (HOPE FOR THE FUTURE)?

Recognizing that not all families will receive an ESA award for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year, tuition assistance will continue to be awarded to families who meet eligibility requirements for Hope for the Future (HFF). We know that Hope for the Future does not cover the full amount of tuition, but it is still an integral part of keeping our Catholic schools affordable for more families. HFF Application and Award information will be released this Fall, and all families are eligible to apply, though funds will be reserved for families who do not receive ESA funding.



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## WHERE CAN I GET HELP WITH THE APPLICATION?

The Department of Catholic Schools- Archdiocese of San Antonio will provide ESA information sessions, step-by-step guides, and application workshops to help families through the process. Make sure to fill out the QR Code at the bottom to stay connected.

## WHAT ARE THE "PRIORITY GROUPS" FOR FUNDING?

While every eligible family is encouraged to apply, the state has designated priority groups for funding distribution. Here is the breakdown of each funding group:

**TIER 1:** Students with a **disability** (defined by Texas Education Code Sec. 29.003) whose family income is **= or <500%** of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)

**TIER 2:** Children whose family income is **= or <200%** of FPG

**TIER 3:** Children whose family income is between **200% and 500%** of FPG

**TIER 4: Everyone else** (depends on available funds). Students who wish to transfer from public schools will be prioritized over currently enrolled private school students in this category only.

## TEXAS ESA INCOME GUIDELINES

Number of people in household	200% of Poverty Guidelines Yearly Income	500% of Poverty Guidelines Yearly Income
1	\$31,300	\$78,250
2	\$42,300	\$105,750
3	\$53,300	\$133,250
4	\$64,300	\$160,750
5	\$75,300	\$188,250
6	\$83,920	\$215,750
7	\$108,300	\$270,750



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**EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT (ESA):**  
GROWING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES.

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