EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT (ESA)

An ESA is an account administered by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and funded by state tax dollars. It consists of 90% of the state funding that would have otherwise been allocated to the school district the student is assigned to attend based on their address. Applications are available all year round.

When parents sign an ESA contract, they opt out of the education and services the public education system offers. ESA funds can be used to pay private school tuition, home education and curriculum, tutoring, and more.

Students cannot receive STO funds (tax credit scholarships) and ESA funds at the same time, regardless of how a parent chooses to spend the ESA funds. Parents need to choose which funding source works best for their financial situation. If your student receives ESA funding but STO funds were already sent for tuition, all STO funds will need to be returned based on the quarter in which your ESA eligibility began. For example, if you receive ESA funding beginning in Quarter 1 but $3,000 in STO scholarships was already sent to the school for your student's tuition, $3,000 will need to be returned to the respective STOs.

UNIVERSAL ESA *(New as of the '22-'23 school year)*

All K-12 students in Arizona are eligible to receive a Universal ESA, giving parents more educational options for their students.

Funds are distributed quarterly and begin the quarter that the ESA contract is signed. Kindergarten students are eligible for approximately $4,000/school year. K-12 students are eligible for approximately $7,000/school year.

Quarter 1: July 1 - September 30   *Quarter 3:* January 1 - March 31

Quarter 2: October 1 - December 31   *Quarter 4:* April 1 - June 30

Other ESA eligibility categories include: students in K-12 grade with a disability and students in preschool with a disability.

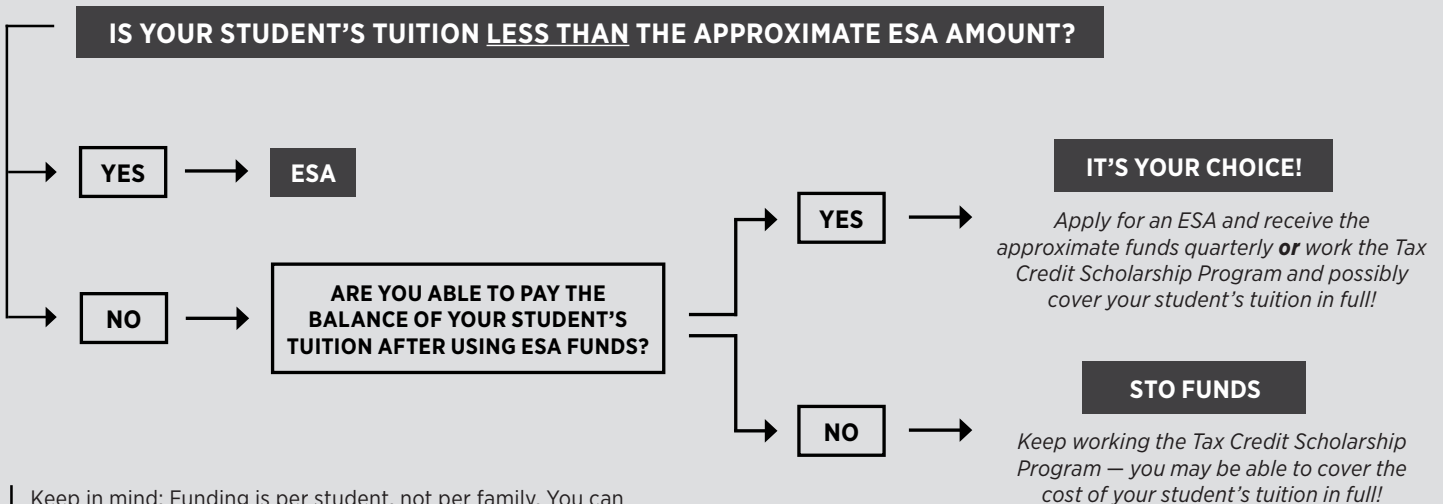## APPLY WITH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

🌐 WWW.AZED.GOV/ESA   📞 602.364.1969

WHICH FUNDING SOURCE IS THE BEST OPTION FOR YOUR STUDENT— *ESA or STO funds?*

IS YOUR STUDENT'S TUITION LESS THAN THE APPROXIMATE ESA AMOUNT?

YES → **ESA**

NO → **ARE YOU ABLE TO PAY THE BALANCE OF YOUR STUDENT'S TUITION AFTER USING ESA FUNDS?**

YES → **IT'S YOUR CHOICE!**
*Apply for an ESA and receive the approximate funds quarterly **or** work the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and possibly cover your student's tuition in full!*

NO → **STO FUNDS**
Keep working the Tax Credit Scholarship Program — you may be able to cover the cost of your student's tuition in full!

Keep in mind: Funding is per student, not per family. You can use an ESA for one student and STO funds for another student.