



Tuition Scholarship Options

The Universal Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) is a state funded program available to all students who reside in Arizona. ESA provides funds based on your local school district's per student funding. The program allows the funds to be used for tuition, enrollment fees, tuition account fees, uniforms, etc. Visit <https://www.azed.gov/esa> to view the ESA parent handbook for a complete list and to apply for a scholarship. New student applications begin in the spring for the coming school year.

The other scholarship option is the AZ Tuition Tax Credit program. This program relies on corporate and individual donations which are state tax deductible. Students can receive these awards based on a variety of criteria including, but not limited to, financial need, learning disabilities, and recommended donations. You can apply to and receive funds from as many STO's as you need to meet your tuition needs in a school year. Each organization has its own enrollment process and deadlines.

Suggested Student Tuition Organizations There are many STO's to choose from. Below are three that we work with regularly and are highly recommended. Visit our [webpage](#) for more information.

[Catholic Education Arizona \(CEA\)](#) provides needs-based tuition tax credit scholarships using donations from corporations and individuals. The application period is typically early February to April 15 for round 1 funding. The deadline to apply for round 2 is mid August. Tax documentation must be provided at the time of your application submission. Application fee is currently \$31.

[Arizona Leadership Foundation](#) Provides Corporate tax credit funding for tuition scholarships for those who qualify based on financial need. This program provides excellent scholarship opportunities for those who meet the criteria. The application period is typically April 15 - mid June.

[Arizona Tuition Connection](#) Provides scholarships for students using donations that recommend a specific school, student or family. Recommended funds can be banked for future use for private school tuition for grades K-12.

Banking STO Funds

You may bank STO tuition funds with any STO that accepts student recommended funds. Friends and family who reside in AZ may donate to an STO and recommend your student and those funds can be banked for your child to use as needed for private elementary or high school tuition. All you need to do is apply to the STO to keep your account active and let them know you want your recommended funds banked.

Important things to consider:

- You can't accept ESA funds and STO funds in the same school year. You must choose one or the other.
- Kindergarten students are not typically funded by ESA at the same rate as the older students. They receive only 70% of the per student funding in your local district. We recommend all kindergarten families with financial need apply to both ESA and the STO programs listed below to determine the best fit for your family.
- You may apply to ESA to determine how much funding they will provide. If you received more scholarship funds from the STO's, you can cancel your ESA contract before using it.
- If you qualify as low-income according to the scholarship program requirements, based on your application and financial documentation, you could receive enough scholarship funds to cover your full tuition if you apply to 2 or more STO programs that use corporate tax credit donations.