

Education Freedom Scholarship Act

Tennessee's Education Freedom Scholarships will empower parents with the freedom to choose the right education for their child—and give them a say in where their taxpayer dollars are spent.

Student Eligibility: Tennessee residents entitled to attend K-12 at a public school, including homeschoolers enrolled in umbrella or church-related school, but not those in an independent home school.

- *2024-25 school year:* 10,000 scholarships available for Tennessee students who are at or below 300% of the federal poverty level, have a disability, or are eligible for the existing ESA pilot program; 10,000 additional scholarships available to a universal pool of students entitled to attend a public school.
- *2025-26 school year and beyond:* Universal eligibility for all students entitled to attend a public school, prioritizing lower income and public-school students if demand exceeds available funding.

Amount: \$7,075 expected for 2024-25

School Eligibility: All private schools in Categories I, II, III, IV, or V.

Recipient Growth: Funding for 20,000 scholarships in 2024-2025, increasing over time until all Tennessee students who desire a scholarship are awarded one.

Priority: In the 2024-2025 school year, scholarships will be awarded on a rolling first-come, first-served basis. In the 2025-2026 school year and beyond, if applications exceed available scholarships due to funding, they will be prioritized as follows:

1. Received an Education Freedom Scholarship in the prior year.
2. < 200% of the federal poverty level, have a disability, or eligible for the ESA pilot program.
3. < 300% of the federal poverty level, have a disability, or eligible for the ESA pilot program.
4. Enrolled in a public school or eligible for kindergarten in the upcoming school year.
5. Order in which TDOE received the students' applications.

Eligible Expenses:

- Private school tuition, fees, and uniforms required by the private school.
- Textbooks, curricula, and instructional materials required by the private school.
- Tutoring services provided by a tutor or tutoring facility.
- Fees for transportation to and from a private school.
- Computer hardware, technological devices, and tech fees used for educational needs.
- Tuition, fees, textbooks, curricula, and instructional materials for summer and afterschool academic programs (public and private), not including afterschool childcare.
- Fees for early postsecondary opportunity courses or exams, entrance exams required for postsecondary admission, and industry credentials as promoted by TDOE.
- Educational therapy services provided by therapists.