

# Parental School Choice FAQ

## How can we stay informed about the latest Parental School Choice news in Texas?

All Schools that are members of Texas Private School Association, TPSA, receive an email update on School Choice, Educational Savings Accounts, ESAs each Thursday from Laura Colangelo, Executive Director of TPSA. These provide very helpful information. Most of our Schools are members of TPSA. Either check with the TPSA website for information about membership or contact Bill Hinz or Lee Gaines.

## How can our school participate in Parental School Choice?

Schools will need to Register (for Parental School Choice) to participate.

## When will we be able to Register?

It will be done electronically and most likely sometime this Fall. [LSAC Accredited Preschools can Register, PK-3 and PK-4 children that qualify for free public schools will qualify.]

## Do we need to do anything now to be approved?

Three requirements: 1) Must be a TEPSAC recognized Accredited School, all LSAC schools qualify, 2) **You must have a Financial Review or Audit completed**, and 3) You must give a Norm-referenced test, such as: Iowa, Stanford, MAPS, CLT, PSAT, SAT in grades 3 – 12.

## What should we do first?

For any special needs students in your school currently; **they must have an approved IEP** in order to qualify for Category 1. (However, we are NOT required to follow the IEP.)

## What are some special needs our current students might have?

Autism deaf-blindness emotional disturbance hearing impairment  
intellectual disability multiple disabilities orthopedic impairment  
other health impairment specific learning disability speech or language impairment  
traumatic brain injury visual impairment.

## How do parents request an IEP?

Currently this must be done in the public school where they reside. Parents of the child must request this from their local school district. For those who do not have an IEP but wish to use Category, Special Needs testing will need to be completed.

## How do families qualify for the ESA (Parental School Choice) program?

Families will need to qualify for the ESA (Parental School Choice) program through the Comptroller's Office. The Texas District/TPSA will have all those links for you to share with your current/future families. **We believe this will not be in place until around January 1, 2026.**

## When can families start the application process?

Families will need to qualify for the ESA (Parental School Choice Program) through the Comptroller's Office. TPSA and the Texas District will send out links for the Application Process. We believe this will not be in place until around January 1, 2026.

**Already by January 2026**, you will start having families that will be applying to your school from this program.

**Will our school be able to continue with our current acceptance policies?**

Each school will be able to use their enrollment processes. Each school will be able to have their normal discipline procedures, up to and including expulsion of students.

**Can a school require a family to apply for the ESA program before requesting financial aid?**

Each school will be able to use their enrollment processes. So, a school can make it a policy that families must first apply for ESA program before requesting financial aid from the school.

**What is in Senate Bill 2?**

- Approximately \$10,000 + per student.
- Private schools that participate must be TEPSAC recognized Accredited Schools. All LSAC schools qualify.
- Strong religious liberty and private school autonomy language.
- Currently enrolled private school students are eligible.
- **Four categories of prioritization for applicants:**
  1. Special needs students and economically disadvantaged students up to \$162,000 for a family of four include both currently enrolled public and private school students. (Must have a current IEP) Special needs students are eligible for more funding – up to \$30,000 per year, per child. If one student in a family qualifies as a special needs student, all siblings automatically qualify in category 1. **[Once a student qualifies for the ESA program, he/she qualifies through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. All the siblings also qualify through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade]**
  2. Children from families making up to \$64,300 for a family of four.  
Currently enrolled private school students are eligible.
  3. Children from families making between \$64,300 to \$162,000.  
Currently enrolled private school students are eligible.
  4. Everyone else depending on available funds. Students who are switching to private schools will go ahead of currently enrolled private school students (in this category only).
- Schools will receive the first 25% by July 1 directly from the Comptroller's office for each ESA student enrolled. 50% by October 1, and the final 25% by April 1.