



How to Apply for a DD STO

A DD STO is short for [Disabled/Displaced School Tuition Organization](#). This is a scholarship that helps eligible students with disabilities or those previously in foster care attend private schools by using funds from corporate tax-credit donations.

Who Can Apply?

1. Arizona Residents

- Student AND parent/guardian [must be AZ residents](#)
- Students [must be attending or planning to attend](#) an eligible private school in AZ

2. Eligibility Category (choose ONE)

A) Disability.

To qualify under this category, your child must have [documentation](#) from an AZ Public school:

- An IEP
- A MET Report
- A Section 504 Plan

Notes:

- The documents do not need to be current. Even an old IEP/MET/504 from an AZ public school is valid.
- Private evaluations or out-of-state paperworks doesn't count
- To get one, contact your local school district and request a special education or 504 evaluation.

B) Displacement (Foster Care)

To qualify, your child must have been in the AZ's foster care system (DCS) at any time before high school graduation.

Notes:

- For proof, [provide documentation](#) from DCS or a signed verification form from the STO.
- [Only applies](#) to students K-12 (not preschool)

Step by Step Application Guide

Step 1: Gather Documents

- For disability: Copy of your child's IEP, MET, or 504 plan from an AZ public school
- For foster care: Verification from DCS or a Displaced Student Form
- Also father: birth certificate, proof of residency, and possibly income info (some STOs require this)

Step 2: Choose a Certified STO

Pick one or more certified School Tuition Organizations (STOs) that offer DD scholarships.

Examples:

- Academic Opportunity of Arizona
- T.O.P.S. for Kids
- APSTO
- Yes Fund for Kids

View the full list at AZDOR.gov

Tip: Apply to multiple STOs to increase your chances. Just follow each STO's rules about multiple awards.

Step 3: Create a Parent Portal Account

Go to your chosen STO's website and create a login. Each STO has a different application portal and process. For example, AOA opens applications April 1-30 at academicopportunity.org

Step 4: Complete the Application

- Fill out the student and school information
- Upload your IEP/MET/504 or foster documentation
- Include income/tax forms if requested
- Some STOs may require [school verification forms](#) (i.e. proving prior public school enrollment)
- Make sure everything is uploaded before submitting – Incomplete applications may be delayed.

Step 5: Submit and Wait

- Submit your application before their deadline.
- If approved, you'll receive a scholarship award letter.
- You'll then submit a [School Commitment Form](#) to confirm your child's enrollment at a private school.
- STOs send funds directly to the school, usually in two payments of Fall and Spring.

Evaluation Details (For Disability Applications)

- Evaluations must come from AZ public school districts ONLY.
- The school team will:

- Do a [MET evaluation](#) and write an [IEP](#) (if the child qualifies), or
- Create a [504 plan](#) for accommodation needs
- Parents must request the evaluation and sign consent forms.
- Once done, request a copy for your STO application.

Important Notes & Deadlines

Preschoolers:

- Only children ages 3-4 with a disability (and an AZ public school IEP/MET) can qualify.
- Foster care preschoolers aren't eligible.

No Income Requirement:

- DD STO scholarships do not require proof of low income.
- Some STOs may request it for prioritization.

Apply Early

- Funds are limited
- There is a [\\$5 million annual cap](#) on DD STO funds.
- Once those funds are gone, no more scholarships are awarded that year.

Corporate Donations:

- Businesses supporting this program must apply for donation approval through the AZ Department of Revenue.
- Companies must donate within 10 days of approval from the AZDOR
- Donations must happen before [fiscal deadlines](#) to count toward the corporate tax credit.

If you have any questions or need help navigating this process, reach out to us! We'd love to help. Contact us at hello@loveyourschool.org!