



How to Apply for an ESA as a Homeschooler

Here's a step-by-step guide on how to apply for an ESA as a homeschooler in AZ!

1. Confirm Eligibility

Every AZ student from kindergarten through 12th grade is eligible. There are no income limits, and previous enrollment in public school is NOT a requirement.

Homeschooled students can participate in ESA, but the parent/guardian [must withdraw the homeschool affidavit](#) before signing the ESA contract. (As a homeschooler, you initially file an affidavit of intent without your county superintendent to declare your intent to homeschool).

2. Switch Over to ESA

When you are ready to apply, submit the ESA application online through the [ADE ESA portal](#). At this point, you have withdrawn your homeschool affidavit because ESA students cannot hold both simultaneously.

3. Gather the Required Docs

To apply, you are going to need

- Birth certificate (child needs to be at [least age 5 by January 1](#) of the contract year)
- [Proof of AZ residency](#) (use a utility bill, lease, etc.)
- [Special needs documentation](#) (if applicable): IEP, MET, or 504 Plan.

4. Submit Your Application!

The ESA applications are accepted year round. However, the application for the following school year opens typically around mid-May.

To apply via ADE Connect, go to "[Welcome to the ESA section](#)" and then press "[Apply Now For The 2025-2026 School Year](#)." You will then fill out the application.

5. Sign the ESA Contract

Once your child is approved, ADE will send a contract that outlines the [specific education requirements](#) (i.e., it says to teach your child reading, grammar, math, social studies, and science).

6. Access Funds via ClassWallet

After the contract is signed, your child gets a ClassWallet ESA account (typically within ~3 weeks). These funds are disbursed in quarterly installments (For example, Quarter 1 is from July-September).

7. Use Funds for Approved Homeschool Expenses

ESA dollars cover things like curriculum, tutor, online programs, supplies, and [more](#). All these purchases must support approved subjects and if submitting supplemental items, include the curriculum that they support. If you want to learn how to write a curriculum with AI, click [here](#)!

8. Monitor Approvals & Funds

ClassWallet requires you to submit receipts or vendor invoices when you purchase something through ESA. Approval timing varies. Amazon purchases usually clear within 7 days, but other items must take longer or require a manual review. Make sure to plan far ahead.

Helpful Resources & Contacts

ADE [Website](#) & [Portal](#)

[ESA Parent Handbook 2025-26](#)

ESA Support Line - **602-364-1969**

Reach out to us at hello@loveyourschool.org