



## ESA Newsletter November 2024

ESA Families,

The program has had a strong start, with reimbursements processing smoothly and making a positive impact on Montana families as they support their children's education. Currently, the Education Savings Account is supporting 14 students on their educational journey.

We are pleased that the second round of applications for new families opened on November 1, 2024, and will close on December 1, 2024. We have already received considerable interest from new families interested in participating in the program. If you know someone who might benefit from this program, please share the ESA flyer below to help them learn more about the benefits.

[Education Savings Account Flyer](#)

### Things to Know:

**Mileage Reimbursement** - If you transport your child to and from tutoring sessions or therapy appointments, you can be reimbursed for the mileage. Use the reimbursement form available on our [ESA website](#). Mileage will be reimbursed at the current state rate of .67 cents per mile. When completing the form, you will be required to provide the starting and ending locations, the number of miles traveled, the date of travel, and the reason for the trip.

[Mileage Reimbursement Form](#)

**Private School Tuition** – If a parent chooses to utilize the ESA funds for private school tuition, in accordance with [20-7-1708, MCA](#), the Office of Public Instruction is required to collect quarterly reports of services provided to the qualifying student under this program. To comply with this requirement, the private school must provide quarterly reports to OPI confirming the student's enrollment dates and services provided. If we do not receive these reports, the Office of Public Instruction may not be able to provide reimbursement to the parent of the ESA student. The direct link where these quarterly reports can be uploaded is now available on the [ESA Website](#).

**Student Trust Account Deposits** - The student trust accounts receive monthly deposits. These payments are made to OPI, from the school district, from September through June, and deposited into the students trust account monthly. By the end of June, students will have received the full allocation designated to their account. If reimbursement requests exceed the

current balance in the account, the remaining balance will be paid out in the following month, after the new deposits have been received.

**Reimbursement Process** - The [reimbursement request form](#) is located on the [ESA Website](#). Families can submit reimbursement requests for allowable expenses incurred on/after July 1, 2024. Reimbursement requests submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month will be applied to the available balance for reimbursement the following month. Currently, we have sent out reimbursements for submissions by August 25<sup>th</sup>, and September 25<sup>th</sup>, and are in the process of sending out reimbursements sent in before October 25<sup>th</sup>.



ESA Reimbursement  
Form Instructions.pdf



Allowable\_Unallow  
able Expenses.pdf

### **Upcoming events:**

**Parent Survey** - We are pleased to inform you that the Office of Public Instruction is in the process of developing a parent survey to gather feedback on how the Education Savings Account program is running. Your input is incredibly valuable as it will help ensure the program is meeting the needs of families. Once the survey is available, we encourage you to participate and share your thoughts and experiences. Your feedback plays a crucial role in shaping the future of this program.

**New Reimbursement System** - We are still in the process of launching a new on-line system for the Education Savings Reimbursement program that will be more user friendly for parents participating in the program. This system will allow parents to login to their account to submit reimbursements, view receipts uploaded, payments processed, and balances in their student's account. As soon as we have more information, we will be sharing this out to families along with instructions

Next ESA Parent Steering Committee Meeting – November 18<sup>th</sup> 4pm – 5:30pm – Virtual. The steering committee provides strategic advisory support to ensure the ESA program meets the needs of the families in the ESA program. Please visit the [ESA website](#) to view previous meetings. If you would like to join the next scheduled meeting, contact Whitney Williams ([OPIESA@mt.gov](mailto:OPIESA@mt.gov)) to request a link.