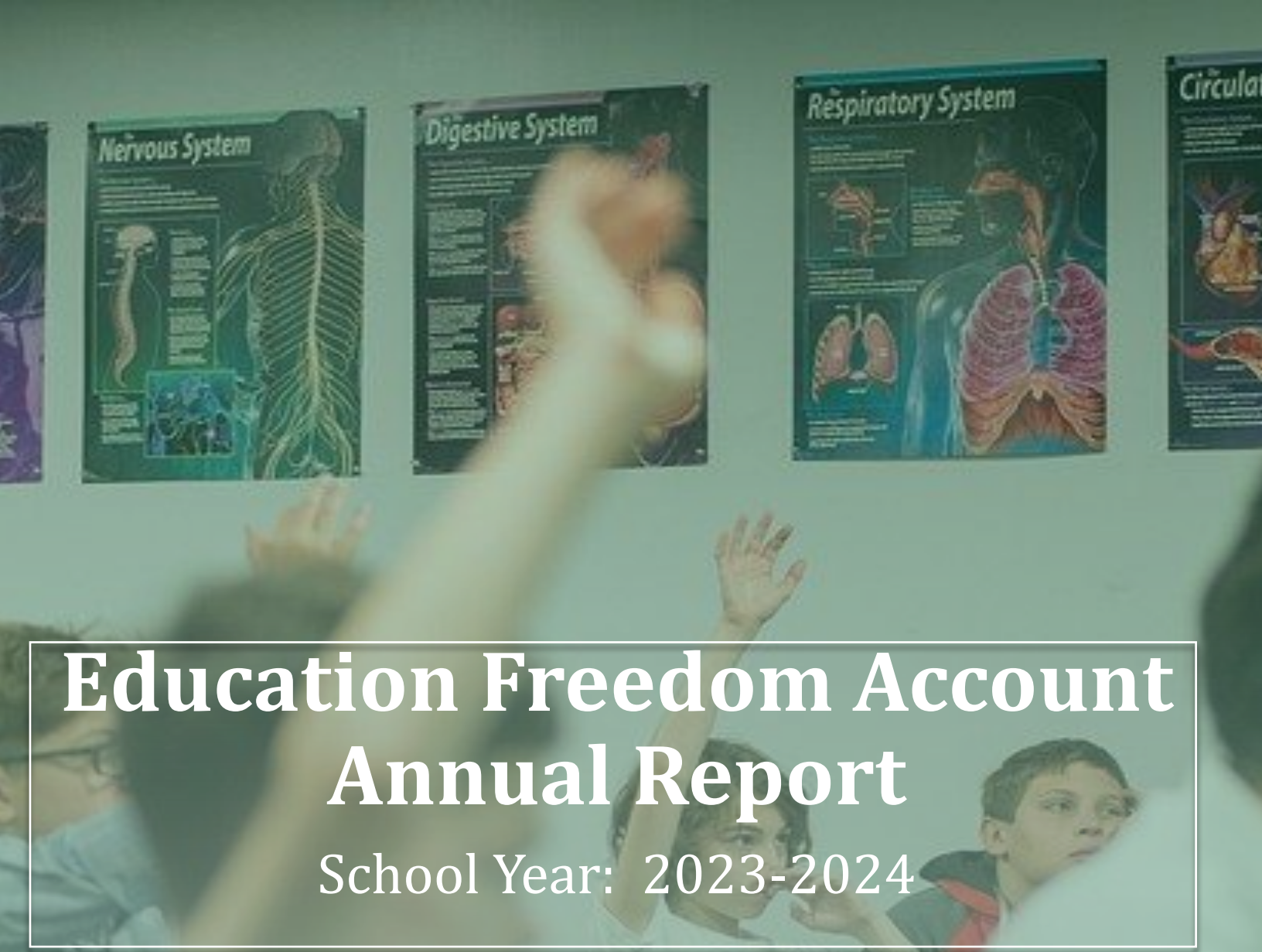


Education Freedom Account Annual Report

School Year: 2023-2024

LEARNS

Contents

Cover	3
School Choice and Parental Empowerment	4
Executive Summary	5
Introduction	6
Student Participation	8
School Participation	11
School Retention Rate	16
Service Provider Participation	22
Fiscal Impact	23
Aggregate Norm-Referenced Test Results	25
Quick Facts	26

Cover letter

September 30th, 2024

To: Arkansas Legislative Council
House Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Education

From: Jacob Oliva
Secretary of Education
Arkansas Department of Education

Re: Education Freedom Accounts | 2023-2024 Annual Report

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is pleased to submit the **Education Freedom Account (EFA) Annual Report** for the 2023-2024 academic year in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2510. This report provides an overview of the EFA program's activities and outcomes from its launch on June 19, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to support Arkansas families and students through this program. The Department is committed to the continued success of the Education Freedom Account program and looks forward to working with the Council and Committees to ensure its effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jacob Oliva
Secretary of Education
Arkansas Department of Education

School Choice and Parent Empowerment

Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment

The Department's Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment, within the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, has administered the planning, implementation, and monitoring of Education Freedom Accounts while also overseeing the Department's efforts supporting school choice in Arkansas. Underpinning the Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment core objectives is a powerful set of guiding principles:

- Empower parents to make the best school choice for their child
- Expand educational opportunity and access for Arkansas' families
- Support high-quality school options
- Balance accountability with flexibility
- Ensure strong fiscal stewardship of public funds
- Use data to inform rule-making

With these guiding principles in mind, the Office of School Choice and Parental Empowerment is thrilled to announce a successful launch of Education Freedom Accounts (EFA), evidenced by the 5,548 funded student accounts representing over 3,000 families who have been empowered by EFAs. Strong family interest has been met with outstanding support from Arkansas' private schools. At the conclusion of year one, 97 schools were approved to participate. Looking forward, the Office of School Choice and Parental Empowerment is poised to continue supporting Arkansas' families in identifying and attaining high-quality educational optins..

Executive Summary

The Arkansas Department of Education respectfully presents the Education Freedom Account (EFA) Annual Report for the 2023-2024 academic year, in compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2510. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the EFA program's performance, including key statistics on family, school, and service provider participation. Additionally, it details fund usage and analyzes the program's fiscal impact for the reporting period. We are committed to ensuring the continued success of the EFA program and look forward to ongoing collaboration with all stakeholders.

Education Freedom Accounts at a glance

The Education Freedom Accounts program is a school choice initiative that empowers parents by providing funding for eligible students to attend participating private schools. An overview of the 2023-2024 academic year is provide below.

5,548
Active Participants

$6,672
EFA account value

97
Participating schools

$34.92m
Total EFA spending

4/4
Quarterly payments disbursed

4
Participating service providers

Opportunities for future academic years

Looking ahead, ADE has identified several opportunities for Education Freedom Accounts in upcoming years, including:

- Expanding the supply of high-quality elementary and secondary school choice options throughout Arkansas, particularly in underrepresented geographies.
- Facilitating the onboarding and recruitment of service providers as expanded expense eligibility criteria take effect.
- Deploying a deliberate and systematic approach to EFA program participation.

Introduction

Report overview:

In accordance with **Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2510**, the Arkansas Department of Education presents this annual report regarding the implementation of Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) to the Arkansas Legislative Council, as well as the House and Senate Committees on Education. This report covers the period from the launch of EFAs on June 19, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

As stipulated in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2510, this report includes the following:

1. The total number of students currently participating in the program
2. A list of all participating schools and participating service providers
3. The total student enrollment of each participating school and the percentage of the total enrollment of each school represented by participating students
4. The percentage of funds used for each type of qualifying expense
5. A preliminary analysis of the program's fiscal impact
6. Aggregated test result data for participating students for the 2023-204 academic year .
7. The retention rates for participating students enrolled in participating schools
8. The results of a parent satisfaction survey that shall be administered by the Department

Introduction

Education Freedom Account overview:

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) were created to empower parents to make the best educational choice for their family by providing financial resources for eligible students to attend participating private schools. For the 2023-2024 school year, each EFA provided $6,672 per student, with a higher allocation of $7,413 for recipients of the 2022-2023 Succeed Scholarship. These funds were disbursed quarterly to families to fund their chosen educational options. All payments were processed through ClassWallet**,** a secure digital and accounts payable platform, ensuring that funds were delivered directly to participating schools and service providers for educational services and qualifying expenses.

To qualify for the 2023-2024 academic year, students must have been eligible to enroll in an Arkansas public elementary or secondary school, have a parent who is a current resident of the State, and meet one of the following criteria:

1. First time kindergarteners
2. Students coming from “F” schools or “Level 5” districts
3. Students who participated in the Succeed Scholarship Program for the 2022-2023 school year[1,2]
4. Students with a disability identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
5. Students experiencing homelessness
6. Current or former foster care children
7. Children of active-duty military personnel

1. Per Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-901, to qualify for the Succeed Scholarship Program, a student must have been enrolled in a public school district for at least the full school year immediately prior (or have a superintendent waiver) and (1) have a disability (as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) or (2) have been a current or former foster care students or (3) have participated in the Succeed Scholarship program during the prior year and not turned twenty-one years of age or (4) Have been the child of a uniformed service member (if funds remain after all other eligible students received funding.
2. Former Succeed Scholarship students continue to receive the full foundation funding amount (which they received as part of the Succeed Scholarship Program)

Student participation

Overview

The program has received strong interest from Arkansas' families. There were 5,548 active Education Freedom Accounts funded during the 23-24 academic year This rate of participation comes in spite of a delayed start and then restart after interruption due to litigation. Education Freedom Accounts did not launch until June 19th, 2023. Education Freedom Account participants display the following characteristics:

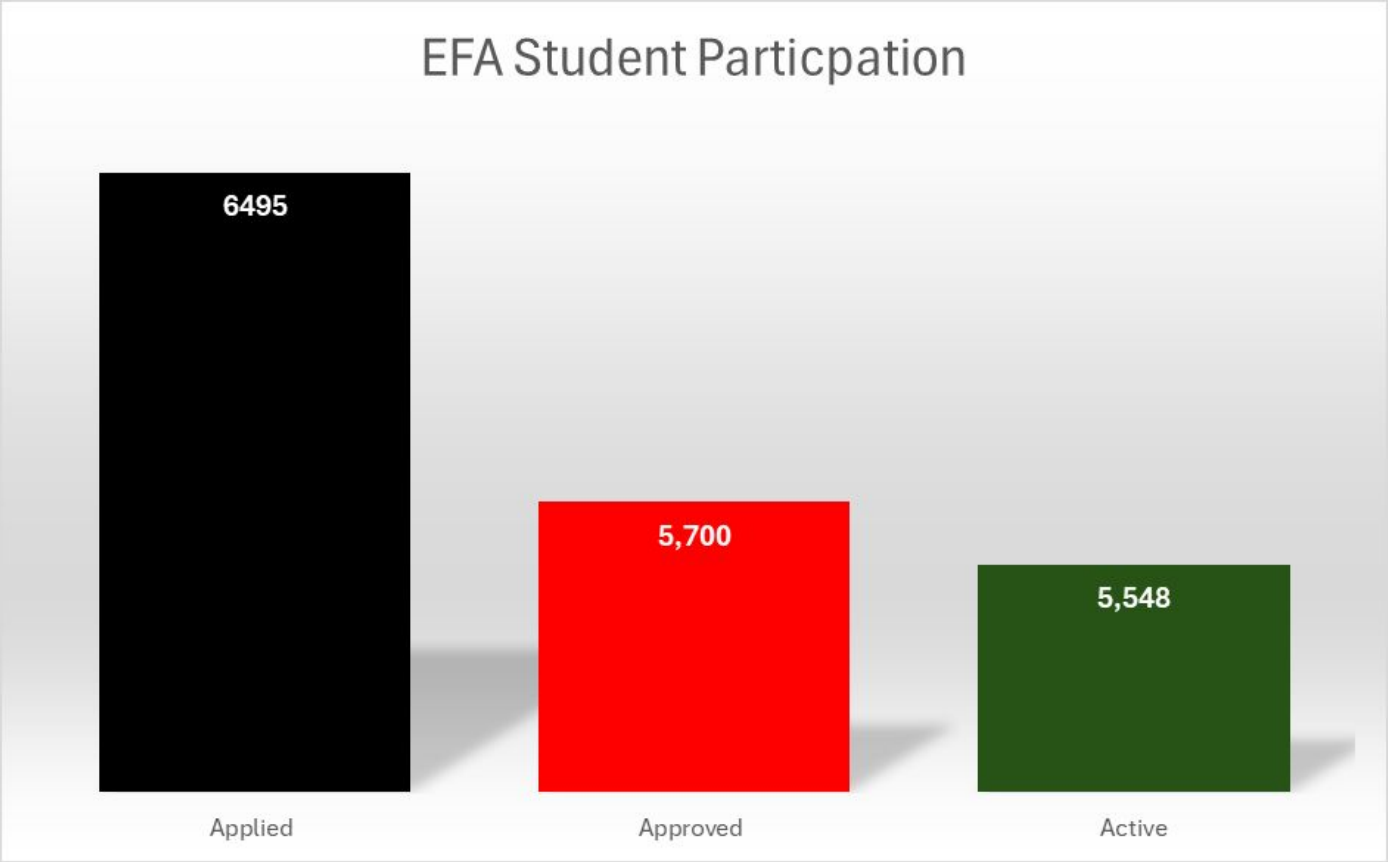
1. **Eligibility criteria**: Students with disabilities, as identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), represented the largest share of participating students, accounting for 57% of total participants. First-time kindergarteners also made up a significant portion, comprising 30% of the participant population. Of the previous year's 685 Succeed Scholarship Program participants, 630 received funds through an Education Freedom Account (EFA).

2. **Prior public school enrollment status:** Approximately 18% (1,216) of the students who submitted an application were enrolled in the public school system during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Student participation

Figure 1: **6 ,495** total applicants, **5,548** active EFA participants

EFA applications, approvals, and active participants



Applied (6,495)

- All completed and submitted EFA applications

Approved (5,700)

- Applications that have been approved by the Department
- Reasons for non-approval
  - did not submit required documentation
  - applicants confirmed that they no longer intended to participate in EFAs this year
  - applications did not meet the eligibility criteria and were not granted an EFA

Active participants (5,548)

- Students onboarded to ClassWallet to receive EFA funds

Student participation

Figure 2: **Participation, by Education Freedom Account eligibility criteria**

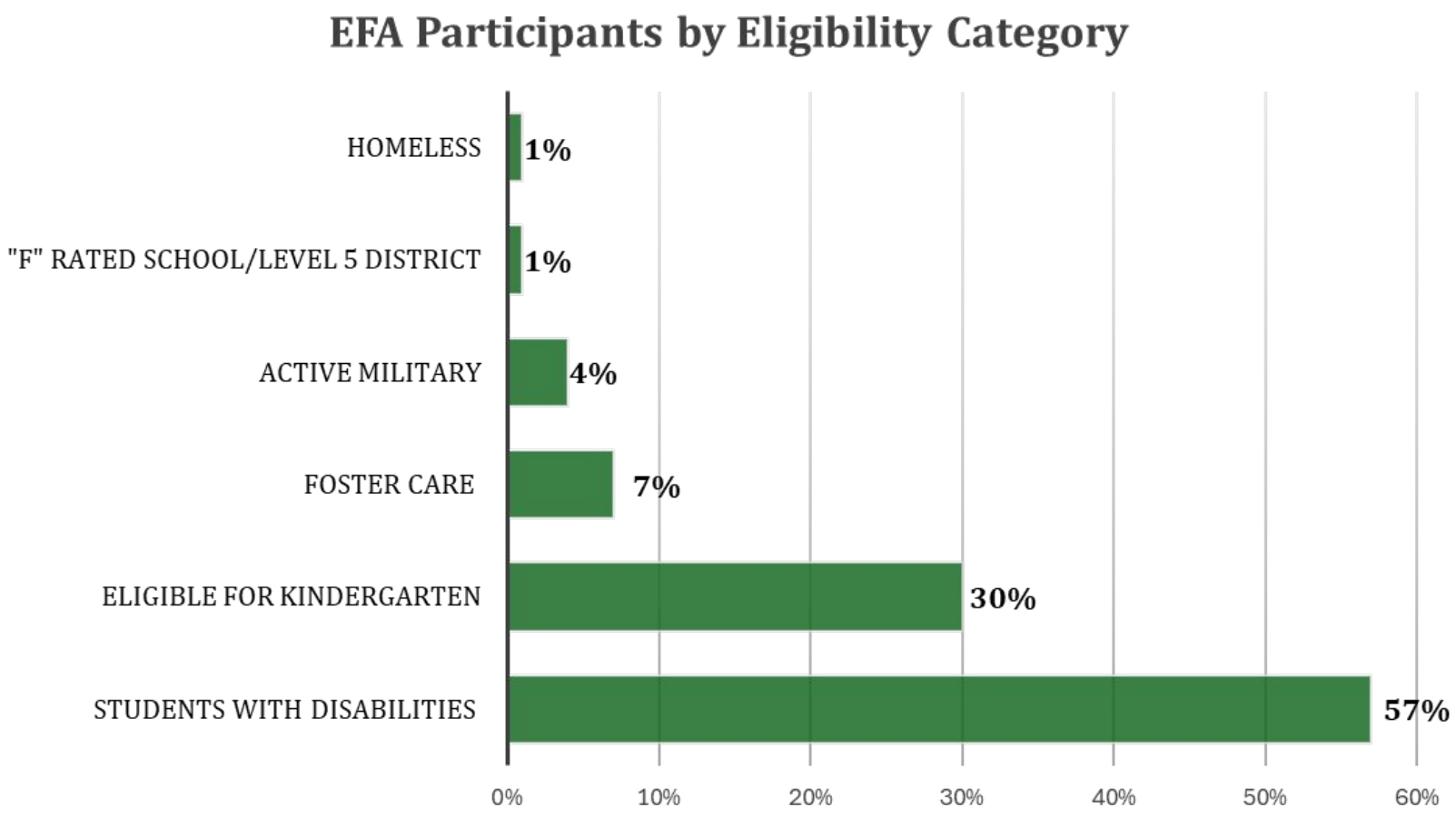
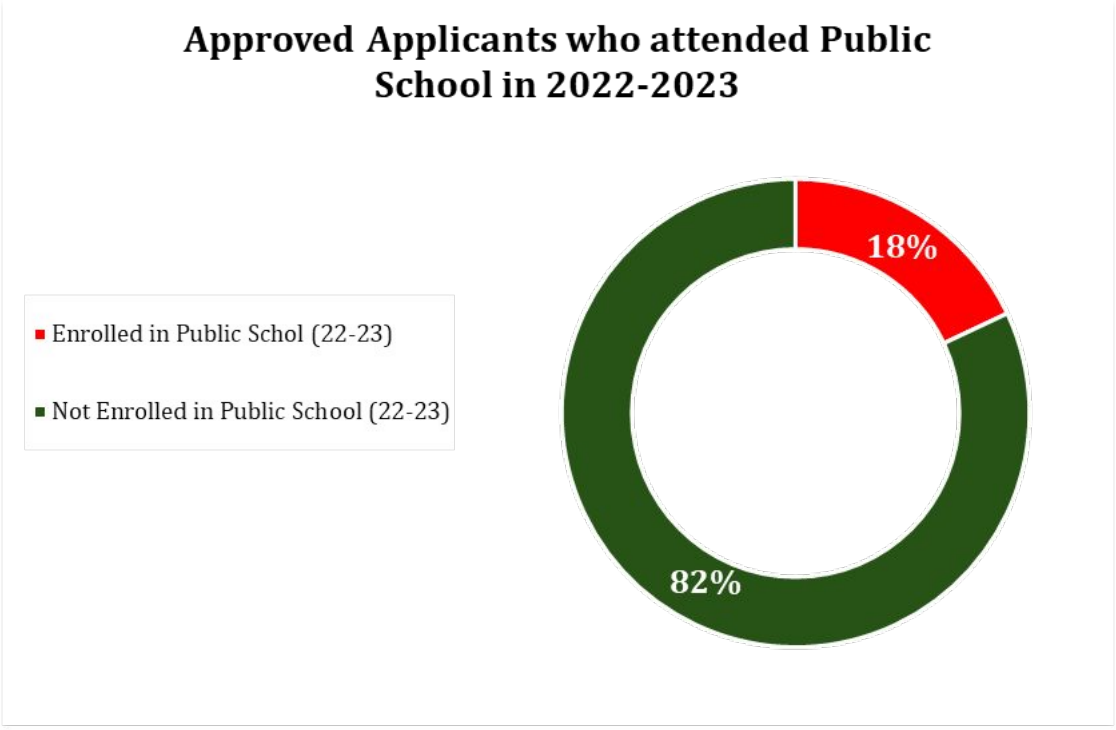


Figure 3: **Participation, by previous school status during the 2022-2023 school year**



School participation

Table 1 (1/5): There were 97 private schools participating in the 23-24 EFA program.

On average, a participating private school had 39% of it's enrolled students receiving EFA funds

List of EFA participating private schools

School Name	EFA Enrollment	Total Enrollment	EFA% of Total Enrollment
Abundant Life Christian Academy (Sherwood)	114	329	33%
Academy of Excellence (Eureka Springs)	7	36	19%
Access Academy (Little Rock)	106	113	94%
Agape Academy (Little Rock)	14	18	78%
Anthem Classical Academy (Fayetteville)	25	78	32%
Arkansas Christian Academy (Bryant)	116	321	36%
Arrows Academy (Paragould)	22	30	73%
Avilla Christian Academy (Alexander)	17	25	68%
Baptist Preparatory School (Little Rock)	198	509	39%
Baseline Bilingual School (Little Rock)	6	50	12%
Bentonville Christian Academy (Bentonville)	27	81	33%
Blessed Sacrament Catholic School (Jonesboro)	26	137	19%
Cabot Christian School (Cabot)5	5	12	42%
Calvary Academy (North Little Rock)	134	382	35%
Calvary Christian School (Forrest City)	18	54	33%
Catholic High School For Boys (Little Rock)	106	708	15%
Central Arkansas Christian School (All Campuses)	252	792	32%
Central Arkansas Montessori (Little Rock)	36	39	92%

School participation

Table 1 (2/5): There were 97 private schools participating in the 23-24 EFA program.

On average, a participating private school had 39% of it's enrolled students receiving EFA funds

List of EFA participating private schools

School Name	EFA Enrollment	Total Enrollment	EFA% of Total Enrollment
Christ Lutheran (Little Rock) (Little Rock)	52	124	42%
Christ the King School (Fort Smith)	64	181	35%
Christ the King School (Little Rock)	197	594	33%
Clear Spring School (Eureka Springs)	5	61	8%
Clover Community School (Bentonville)	10	13	77%
Columbia Christian School (Magnolia)	38	216	18%
Community Christian School (Siloam Springs)	2	26	8%
Compass Academy (Conway)	112	121	93%
Cornerstone Christian Academy (Tillar)	79	150	53%
Cornerstone Montessori Christian Academy (Bryant)	4	5	80%
CrossPointe Preparatory School (Searcy)	18	115	16%
Easterseals Arkansas – The Academy at Riverdale (Little Rock)	75	75	100%
Eighty-Twenty Learning for ASD (Jonesboro)	20	23	87%
Episcopal Collegiate School (Little Rock)	194	812	24%
Fayetteville Christian School (Fayetteville)	37	136	27%
Fayetteville Nature School (Fayetteville)	11	32	34%
First Academy (Rogers, AR)	40	217	18%
First Lutheran School (Fort Smith)	55	105	52%
Friendship Lab School for Dyslexia (Little Rock)	39	39	100%
Ft. Smith Montessori (Fort Smith)	18	78	23%

School participation

Table 1 (3/5): There were 97 private schools participating in the 23-24 EFA program.

On average, a participating private school had 39% of it's enrolled students receiving EFA funds

List of EFA participating private schools

School Name	EFA Enrollment	Total Enrollment	EFA% of Total Enrollment
Harding Academy (Searcy)	106	628	17%
Harvest Time Christian Academy (Fort Smith)	31	100	31%
Holy Rosary Catholic School (Stuttgart)	9	53	17%
Immaculate Conception Catholic School (North Little Rock)	149	323	46%
Immaculate Conception School (Fort Smith)	72	221	33%
Immaculate Heart of Mary School (North Little Rock)	26	101	26%
Jacksonville Christian Academy (Jacksonville)	20	142	14%
Joshua Academy (Van Buren)	33	38	87%
Julian and Jaxon Academy (Little Rock)	3	3	100%
Leap Frog Montessori (Siloam Springs)	13	21	62%
Legacy Academy (DeQueen)	33	138	24%
Legacy Academy (Lockesburg)	7	150	5%
Liberty Christian School (Searcy)	13	55	24%
Life Way Christian School (Centerton)	114	601	19%
Little Rock Christian Academy (Little Rock)	360	1665	22%
Madonna Learning Center (Germantown, Tennessee)	1	97	1%
Maranatha Baptist Christian (Eldorado)	10	47	21%
Mount St. Mary Academy (Little Rock)	81	477	17%
Mtn. Home Christian Academy (Mountain Home)	17	200	8%
New Life Christian Academy (North Little Rock)	40	189	21%

School participation

Table 1 (4/5): There were 97 private schools participating in the 23-24 EFA program.

On average, a participating private school had 39% of it's enrolled students receiving EFA funds

List of EFA participating private schools

School Name	EFA Enrollment	Total Enrollment	EFA% of Total Enrollment
North Little Rock Catholic Academy (North Little Rock)	45	160	28%
North River Christian Academy (North Little Rock)	35	55	64%
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School (Benton)	24	78	31%
Our Lady of Holy Souls (Little Rock)	157	448	35%
Ozark Catholic Academy (Springdale)	16	116	14%
Pinnacle Classical Academy (Little Rock)	17	60	28%
Prism Education Center (Fayetteville)	22	165	13%
Providence Classical Christian (Rogers)	86	578	15%
Pulaski Academy (Little Rock)	211	1218	17%
Russellville Baptist Academy (Russellville)	8	50	16%
Sacred Heart Catholic (Morrilton)	81	230	35%
Sherwood Christian Academy (Sherwood)	13	13	100%
Shiloh Christian School (Springdale)	233	1480	16%
Shiloh Excel Christian School (Little Rock)	11	11	100%
Southwest Christian Academy (Little Rock)	72	176	41%
St. John'S Catholic School (Russellville)	19	63	30%
St. John's Catholic School (Hot Springs)	18	119	15%
St. Joseph Catholic School (Paris)	14	46	30%
St. Joseph Catholic School (Conway)	116	446	26%

School participation

Table 1 (5/5): There were 97 private schools participating in the 23-24 EFA program.

On average, a participating private school had 39% of it's enrolled students receiving EFA funds.

List of EFA participating private schools

School Name	EFA Enrollment	Total Enrollment	EFA% of Total Enrollment
St. Joseph Catholic School (Fayetteville)	121	357	43%
St. Michael's Catholic School (West Memphis)	6	38	65%
St. Paul Catholic School (Pocahontas)	34	105	32%
St. Theresa Catholic School (Little Rock)	40	184	22%
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic (Rogers)	100	399	25%
Subiaco Academy (Subiaco, Arkansas)	13	147	8%
The Academy of The Learning Center (Jonesboro)	25	24	100%
The Anthony School (Little Rock)	92	325	28%
The Decker School (Maumelle)	14	50	28%
The Grace School (Fayetteville)	15	21	71%
The Hill School (Fayetteville)	8	75	11%
The Huda Academy (Little Rock)	19	202	9%
The Lighthouse Homeschool Cooperative (Jonesboro)	58	61	95%
Trinity Catholic Junior High School (Fort Smith)	36	211	17%
Trinity Christian School (Texarkana)	40	179	22%
Union Christian Academy (Fort Smith)	94	284	33%
Valley Christian Academy (Russellville)	23	124	19%
Victory Christian School (Camden)	14	78	18%
West Memphis Christian School (West Memphis)	73	243	30%
West Side Christian School (El Dorado)	88	203	42%

School Retention Rates

Table 2 (1/6): Percentage of students continuing in the program for the 24-25 academic year .

List of retention rates for EFA participating private schools

2023-24 School Name	Percent Continuing in the EFA Program	Percent Continuing at the Same School
Abundant Life Christian Academy (Sherwood)	97.4%	93.9%
Academy of Excellence (Eureka Springs)	85.7%	85.7%
Access Academy (Little Rock)	85.8%	81.1%
Agape Academy (Little Rock)	100.0%	100.0%
Anthem Classical Academy (Fayetteville)	100.0%	100.0%
Arkansas Christian Academy (Bryant)	86.2%	83.6%
Arrows Academy (Paragould)	68.2%	54.5%
Avilla Christian Academy (Alexander)	88.2%	41.2%
Baptist Preparatory School (Little Rock)	88.4%	86.9%
Baseline Bilingual School (Little Rock)	100.0%	100.0%
Bentonville Christian Academy (Bentonville)	70.4%	63.0%
Blessed Sacrament Catholic School (Jonesboro)	80.8%	80.8%
Cabot Christian School (Cabot)	100.0%	60.0%
Calvary Academy (North Little Rock)	90.3%	89.6%
Calvary Christian School (Forrest City)	88.9%	88.9%
Catholic High School For Boys (Little Rock)	86.8%	86.8%
Central Arkansas Christian School (All Campuses)	90.9%	90.1%
Central Arkansas Montessori (Little Rock)	86.1%	83.3%
Christ Lutheran (Little Rock) (Little Rock)	73.1%	59.6%

School Retention Rates

Table 2 (2/6): Percentage of students continuing in the program for the 24-25 academic year .

List of retention rates for EFA participating private schools

2023-24 School Name	Percent Continuing in the EFA Program	Percent Continuing at the Same School
Christ the King School (Fort Smith)	98.4%	93.8%
Christ the King School (Little Rock)	97.5%	86.3%
Clear Spring School (Eureka Springs)	60.0%	60.0%
Clover Community School (Bentonville)	80.0%	80.0%
Columbia Christian School (Magnolia)	92.1%	92.1%
Community Christian School (Siloam Springs)	100.0%	100.0%
Compass Academy (Conway)	85.7%	80.4%
Cornerstone Christian Academy (Tillar)	87.3%	87.3%
Cornerstone Montessori Christian Academy (Bryant)	100.0%	100.0%
CrossPointe Preparatory School (Searcy)	77.8%	66.7%
Easterseals Arkansas – The Academy at Riverdale (Little Rock)	78.7%	76.0%
Eighty-Twenty Learning for ASD (Jonesboro)	75.0%	75.0%
Episcopal Collegiate School (Little Rock)	95.4%	94.8%
Fayetteville Christian School (Fayetteville)	97.3%	94.6%
Fayetteville Nature School (Fayetteville)	90.9%	81.8%
First Academy (Rogers, AR)	95.0%	90.0%
First Lutheran School (Fort Smith)	63.6%	49.1%
Friendship Lab School for Dyslexia (Little Rock)	69.2%	46.2%

School Retention Rates

Table 2 (3/6): Percentage of students continuing in the program for the 24-25 academic year .

List of retention rates for EFA participating private schools

2023-24 School Name	Percent Continuing in the EFA Program	Percent Continuing at the Same School
Ft. Smith Montessori (Fort Smith)	94.4%	38.9%
Harding Academy (Searcy)	94.3%	94.3%
Harvest Time Christian Academy (Fort Smith)	93.5%	90.3%
Holy Rosary Catholic School (Stuttgart)	88.9%	88.9%
Immaculate Conception Catholic School (North Little Rock)	93.3%	80.5%
Immaculate Conception School (Fort Smith)	93.1%	86.1%
Immaculate Heart of Mary School (North Little Rock)	100.0%	92.3%
Jacksonville Christian Academy (Jacksonville)	85.0%	85.0%
Joshua Academy (Van Buren)	87.9%	87.9%
Julian and Jaxon Academy (Little Rock)	0.0%	0.0%
Leap Frog Montessori (Siloam Springs)	76.9%	76.9%
Legacy Academy (DeQueen)	90.9%	0.0%
Legacy Academy (Lockesburg)	71.4%	71.4%
Liberty Christian School (Searcy)	92.3%	92.3%
Life Way Christian School (Centerton)	93.0%	93.0%
Little Rock Christian Academy (Little Rock)	94.2%	92.8%
Madonna Learning Center (Germantown, Tennessee)	100.0%	100.0%

School Retention Rates

Table 2 (4/6): Percentage of students continuing in the program for the 24-25 academic year .

List of retention rates for EFA participating private schools

2023-24 School Name	Percent Continuing in the EFA Program	Percent Continuing at the Same School
Maranatha Baptist Christian (Eldorado)	100.0%	100.0%
Mount St. Mary Academy (Little Rock)	71.6%	69.1%
Mtn. Home Christian Academy (Mountain Home)	88.2%	88.2%
New Life Christian Academy (North Little Rock)	77.5%	77.5%
North Little Rock Catholic Academy (North Little Rock)	82.2%	75.6%
North River Christian Academy (North Little Rock)	65.7%	65.7%
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School (Benton)	75.0%	62.5%
Our Lady of Holy Souls (Little Rock)	100.0%	93.6%
Ozark Catholic Academy (Springdale)	68.8%	31.3%
Pinnacle Classical Academy (Little Rock)	88.2%	88.2%
Prism Education Center (Fayetteville)	63.6%	63.6%
Providence Classical Christian (Rogers)	96.5%	91.9%
Pulaski Academy (Little Rock)	84.4%	83.9%
Russellville Baptist Academy (Russellville)	100.0%	100.0%
Sacred Heart Catholic (Morrilton)	91.4%	90.1%
Sherwood Christian Academy (Sherwood)	53.8%	53.8%
Shiloh Christian School (Springdale)	92.3%	92.3%

School Retention Rates

Table 2 (5/6): Percentage of students continuing in the program for the 24-25 academic year .

List of retention rates for EFA participating private schools

2023-24 School Name	Percent Continuing in the EFA Program	Percent Continuing at the Same School
Shiloh Excel Christian School (Little Rock)	45.5%	45.5%
Southwest Christian Academy (Little Rock)	79.2%	79.2%
St. John'S Catholic School (Russellville)	100.0%	100.0%
St. John's Catholic School (Hot Springs)	77.8%	77.8%
St. Joseph Catholic School (Paris)	100.0%	100.0%
St. Joseph Catholic School (Conway)	93.1%	90.5%
St. Joseph Catholic School (Fayetteville)	85.1%	75.2%
St. Michael's Catholic School (West Memphis)	100.0%	100.0%
St. Paul Catholic School (Pocahontas)	82.4%	79.4%
St. Theresa Catholic School (Little Rock)	100.0%	92.5%
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic (Rogers)	95.0%	92.0%
Subiaco Academy (Subiaco, Arkansas)	76.9%	76.9%
The Academy of The Learning Center (Jonesboro)	92.0%	92.0%

School Retention Rates

Table 2 (6/6): Percentage of students continuing in the program for the 24-25 academic year .

List of retention rates for EFA participating private schools

2023-24 School Name	Percent Continuing in the EFA Program	Percent Continuing at the Same School
The Anthony School (Little Rock)	100.0%	93.5%
The Decker School (Maumelle)	100.0%	85.7%
The Grace School (Fayetteville)	86.7%	86.7%
The Hill School (Fayetteville)	62.5%	62.5%
The Huda Academy (Little Rock)	105.3%	105.3%
The Lighthouse Homeschool Cooperative (Jonesboro)	89.7%	84.5%
Trinity Catholic Junior High School (Fort Smith)	80.6%	75.0%
Trinity Christian School (Texarkana)	75.0%	75.0%
Union Christian Academy (Fort Smith)	84.0%	80.9%
Valley Christian Academy (Russellville)	78.3%	78.3%
Victory Christian School (Camden)	85.7%	85.7%
West Memphis Christian School (West Memphis)	91.8%	90.4%
West Side Christian School (El Dorado)	85.2%	80.7%

Service provider participation

Overview

In the inaugural year of the Education Freedom Accounts (EFA) program, eligible expenses were limited to tuition, fees, testing, uniforms, and other required school-related expenses such as supplies.

Table 3: List of 23-24 EFA participating service providers, by category and funds received

Service provider	Expense type	Funds received	Percent of total
Private School	Tuition	$ 32,563,363.73	93%
Staples	School Supplies	$ 894,564.33	2.5%
ClassWallet	Processing Fee	$ 838,893.51	2.4%
The Toggery	Uniforms	$ 553,701.14	1.6%
Especially For You Designs	Uniforms	$ 67,941.67	<1%
Khakis	Uniforms	$ 6,927.18	<1%
Total	**--**	**$34,925,391.56**	**100%**

Fiscal impact

Overview

We considered three questions concerning the fiscal impact of the 2023-2024 academic year Education Freedom Accounts program:

1. What is the total cost of the program to the state of Arkansas?
2. How are program funds spent?
3. What is the impact on the Arkansas education budget by student type?

Fiscal impact analysis

Program cost: **$34,925,391.56**

Fund use:

For the 2023-2024 academic year, 93% of the Education Freedom Account (EFA) funds were used for tuition at participating private schools. Supplies and uniform purchases made up the remaining 4.6% of total cost for 2023-2024. Class Wallet transaction processing fees accounted for $838,893.51 (2.4%). Among non-tuition and fee categories, school supplies were the most common expense for participating families.

Budget impact:

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the value of each participating student's Education Freedom Account (EFA), who had been enrolled in a private or public school during the prior year, was fully funded by the State, representing new State expenditures of $6,672 per student. Students entering the EFA program from an Arkansas public school had a net-zero impact on the general fund.

Fiscal impact

Budget impact (continued)

Districts support a portion of Arkansas' per-pupil foundation funding amount through the State's 25 mill uniform property tax, AR Const Art 14 § 3. The State subsequently funds the difference between each district's property tax contribution and the full per-pupil foundation funding amount, which in 2022-2023 was $7,413. The share of the per-pupil foundation funding amount covered by the State thus varies dramatically by district; for example, some districts entirely cover the per-pupil foundation funding amount through the 25 mill uniform property tax and do not require additional State funds.

When a student leaves an Arkansas public district in favor of a private school, the district will not receive the State-funded portion of the per-pupil foundation funding amount (but will keep local property tax funds, which will now be distributed over a smaller base of students). However, because funding amounts are set based on prior year enrollment counts, the earliest the impact could be felt if a student left their public district for the 2023-2024 school year is in the 2024-2025 school year. Even in that year, the state may support the district through Declining Enrollment Funding or other programs, and thus the full fiscal impact of the enrollment decline is not felt until 2025-2026.

Aggregate test data

In the first year of the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program, participating private schools were required to report the assessments administered to each participating student, including the results from those assessments (e.g., English Language Arts (ELA) and math scores, as well as national percentiles where applicable). Schools had the flexibility to choose from a wide range of assessments. The **NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)**, **Stanford 10**, **Iowa Test of Basic Skills**, and the **Classical Learning Test 10 (CLT10)** were among the most commonly used assessments by participating schools. Within a single school, multiple assessments could be used. Due to this flexibility and option to submit a portfolio of work or an alternate assessment for eligible students, aligned results were not available across all participating students.

For the 2023-2024 school year, program participation was limited to first-time kindergarteners, students from "F" schools or "Level 5" districts, students transitioning from the Succeed Scholarship Program, and specific special populations, including homeless students, current or former foster care students, students with disabilities, and children of active-duty military personnel. As noted previously, 87% of participants qualified for the program either as students with disabilities under IDEA (57%) or as first-time kindergarten students (30%).

For assessments that included a national percentile, EFA students were reported to average around the **50th percentile in both ELA and math**. This indicates that, on average, participating students scored higher than 50% of other students on nationally norm-referenced assessments.

57%

percentage of EFA participants that qualified as a student diagnosed with IDEA disability

30%

percentage of EFA participants that qualified as a first time kindergarten student

Quick Facts

4.11
Overall parent satisfaction with ClassWallet
(on a scale of 5)

4.35
Overall parent satisfaction with the administration of the EFA program by ADE
(on a scale of 5)

90%
Overall retention rate of students renewing their EFA account for 24-25 EFA program

18,490
Total number of applications submitted for 24-25 EFA program

14,297
Total number of active participants in the 24-25 EFA program

3,318
Total number of students on the 24-25 EFA program waiting list

3,111
Total number of homeschool students participating in the 24-25 EFA program

400+
Number of service providers approved for the 24-25 EFA program

128
Number of participating private schools in the 24-25 EFA program

100%
Percentage of students who will be eligible for the 2025-2026 EFA program



Education Freedom Account Annual Report

School Year: 2023-2024

LEARNS