



# EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Dear Episcopal Collegiate Families,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on pertinent information regarding the Arkansas LEARNS Act and the opportunities relative to Episcopal Collegiate School within this new legislation.

We have been closely monitoring the rollout of the LEARNS Act since it was signed into law earlier this year and the subsequent details of its implementation. Episcopal Collegiate School was recently approved by the Arkansas Department of Education to be a recipient of Education Freedom Account (EFA) funds, and after careful consideration, has decided to participate in the school choice initiative outlined below.

[Education Freedom Accounts](#) provide funding for eligible students to attend participating schools. Eligible families may receive up to 90% of Arkansas' prior year per student foundation funding amount, which for the 2023-2024 school year represents around \$6,600 per Education Freedom Account. Payment of those funds will be distributed directly to participating schools in quarterly payments on behalf of each student with an established Education Freedom Account.

For the 2023-2024 school year, a maximum of 1.5% of the 2022-2023 total public school student enrollment may be approved to participate in the EFA program. Per the legislation, that percentage is scheduled to increase to 3% next school year, and then to all Arkansas students the following school year - subject, of course, to funding.

Eligibility for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year includes:

- First-time Kindergarteners (students who attended Episcopal for Pre-K are eligible)
- Students coming from the Succeed Scholarship Program
- Students coming from "F" schools or "Level 5" districts.
- Specific special populations that include [students with disabilities](#) (click the embedded link for eligibility criteria), children of active-duty military, current or former foster care students, and homeless students.

It is important to note that Episcopal Collegiate School's participation in this program will not impact our admissions process, nor our criteria for student acceptance. Approval to receive Education Freedom Account funds does not require the school to admit any students under this program. Additionally, it does not impact our curriculum, the assessments and standardized tests that we administer to our students, nor our internal requirements to receive academic accommodations. Furthermore, it will not influence our projected class sizes and the low teacher-student ratio that is a hallmark of the Episcopal Collegiate learning environment.

Again, the purpose of this communication is to provide you with information. I am writing neither to encourage nor discourage eligible families from applying to establish an Education Freedom Account. Episcopal Collegiate School does not administer this program. Future eligibility and funding for Education Freedom Accounts is determined by the Arkansas State Government and there are ongoing legal challenges to elements of the legislation.

Families who feel that they may meet eligibility requirements for the 2023-2024 school year can learn more about the EFA program and the application process through the link provided below. Specific questions concerning this program are best directed to the Arkansas Department of Education.

- [Family Education Freedom Account Details](#)

We are excited about the upcoming school year and you should be receiving our electronic summer mailing with back-to-school information towards the end of next week. I hope that you and your families enjoyed a wonderful Independence Day and send my warmest regards.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jamie Griffin  
Head of School