

# Iowa Education Savings Account FAQs

## What information do I need to complete a new application?

Parents/Guardians who apply for an ESA will need the information below.

- Parent/Guardian Legal Name
- Parent/Guardian Contact Information (email address and phone number that can receive text messages for updates) and Preferred Language (English or Spanish)
- Parent/Guardian Current Residential Address
- Address used for the 2024 Iowa State Tax Return (if different from current address)
- Parent/Guardian ID (Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)
- Parent/Guardian Spouse ID (Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)
- Student's Legal Name
- Student's Date of Birth
- Student's Residential Address (if it is different from the parent/guardian address)

## What are the ESA application deadlines?

The Students First ESA Application will be available in English and Spanish. The application window for the 2025-26 school year is open from 8:00 a.m. on April 16, 2025 through 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2025.

## How long will it take to know if my application has been approved?

Applications that are able to be verified through the automatic review processes (i.e., verify through information available in a 2024 Iowa State Tax Return) should receive a response within 30 minutes of completion. Applications that require additional documentation to verify through a manual review will take additional processing time.

## I am a current resident of Iowa but did not file a 2024 Iowa State Tax Return. Are my students eligible for an ESA?

Applications that are not able to be verified through the automatic review process will require additional documentation to verify proof of residency.

## **What information will be used to verify Iowa residency?**

Proof of Iowa residency is based on the parent/guardian's 2024 Iowa State Tax Return. If the parent/guardian did not complete a 2024 Iowa State Tax Return, additional documentation will be required. Details of approved documents to submit for residency verification are listed below.

### **Approved Residency Verification Documents**

- **Option 1:** Current Iowa Driver's License
- **Option 2:** Proof of Residence (current mortgage, lease, utility bill) **and** one of the following:
  - Iowa Voter Registration Card
  - Claim of Homestead Credit or Military Tax Exemption on a home in Iowa
  - Active checking or savings account with an Iowa address
  - Other documents and correspondence initiated during tax periods with an Iowa address
- **Option 3:** Other written and signed narrative from parent/guardian explaining the situation including a stated claim of Iowa residency, and other related documentation reflecting residency.

## **2025-26 ESA Calendar Important Program Deadlines**

- **April 16, 2025 – ESA Applications Open**  
Parents/Guardians can begin applying for an ESA at 8:00 a.m.
- **June 30, 2025 – ESA Applications Close**  
The deadline to submit an ESA application for the 2025-26 school year is 11:59 p.m.
- **July 15, 2025 – Fall ESA Funds Available**  
Fall ESA funds are available.
- **September 30, 2025 – Enrollment & Payment Deadline**  
To receive and retain ESA funds, each participant must (1) be attending an accredited nonpublic school in Iowa, and (2) pay tuition and fees through the ESA portal by 11:59 p.m.  
*Failure to complete this step will make the student ineligible to receive and retain ESA funds for the 2025-26 school year.*
- **October 1, 2025 – Eligibility Finalized**  
Any student with an approved ESA application who is not attending an Iowa accredited nonpublic school or who did not pay fall tuition and fees through the ESA portal by September 30, 2025 are determined to be ineligible.
- **December 1, 2025 – Spring ESA Funds Available**  
Spring ESA funds are available.
- **February 1, 2026 – Spring Tuition & Fees Deadline**  
Parents must pay spring tuition and fees through the ESA portal by 11:59 p.m.