



School Choice for a Strong Alabama



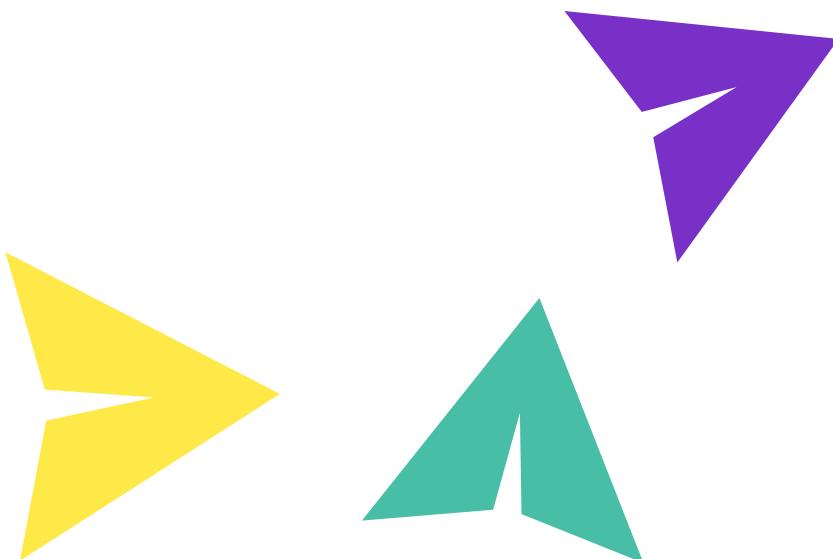
# Parent Guide

## 2026-2027 School Year

Updated December 30, 2025

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## CHOOSE ACT ALABAMA OVERVIEW

The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act of 2024 (The CHOOSE Act) is administered by the Alabama Department of Revenue (ALDOR). CHOOSE Act Alabama makes refundable income tax credits called **education savings accounts** (ESAs) available to support the success of eligible K5-12 students in Alabama.

**An ESA can be used to pay for tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses through approved Education Service Providers (ESPs).**

ALDOR has contracted with ClassWallet for programmatic support and to coordinate the distribution of funds to participating families.

Using ClassWallet's Digital Wallet platform, parents can use their student's ESA to pay for approved educational purchases and expenses.

# ESA ANNUAL AMOUNTS

- **\$7,000 per participating student who is enrolled in a participating school**
- **\$2,000 per participating student who is participating in a home education program** (this includes an individual or group program, homeschool, co-op, etc., and is capped at \$4,000 per family)

## Important Notes:

- All payments and purchases using ESA funds must be made through the ClassWallet platform. **There is no reimbursement to families.**
- **If the student leaves or is removed from CHOOSE Act Alabama, any remaining funds will be returned to the CHOOSE Act Fund.**

## 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR:

### For each participating student who is enrolled in a participating school:

- **\$7,000** will be deposited beginning July 1, 2026

### For each participating student who is participating in a home education program (this includes an individual or group program, homeschool, co-op, etc.):

- **\$2,000** will be deposited beginning July 1, 2026, and is capped at \$4,000 per family

## Important Note:

Participating families will be given the opportunity to renew their student's ESA. More information on the renewal process for the 2027-2028 school year will be provided in early 2027.

# CHOOSE ACT ALABAMA ELIGIBILITY

**To be eligible for the 2026-2027 school year,** the student must be in grades K5-12 and:

- Be a resident of Alabama.
- Have a household income that does not exceed 300% of the federal poverty for the 2025-2026 tax year.

Persons in Family/Household	300% of 2025 Federal Poverty Guideline
1	\$46,950
2	\$63,450
3	\$79,950
4	\$96,450
5	\$112,950
6	\$129,450
7	\$145,950
8	\$162,450
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$16,500 for each additional person.	

## Important Notes:

CHOOSE Act Alabama provides ESAs for the 2026-2027 school year. The first 500 ESAs are reserved for students with special needs. In addition, priority is given to participating students and siblings of participating students, as well as students who are dependents of active-duty service members who are enrolled in or assigned to a priority school. A priority school is defined as a public K5-12 school that received a grade of "D" or "F" on its most recent Alabama Department of Education school report card. See the complete list of priority schools [here](#).

To be eligible as a kindergartener, the student must turn 5 by September 1, 2026.

# USING ESA FUNDS THROUGH CLASSWALLET

After the student's application is approved, a digital wallet account will be created within the ClassWallet platform.

**After approval, participating families will receive a welcome email from ClassWallet with instructions on accessing their account along with other helpful resources.**

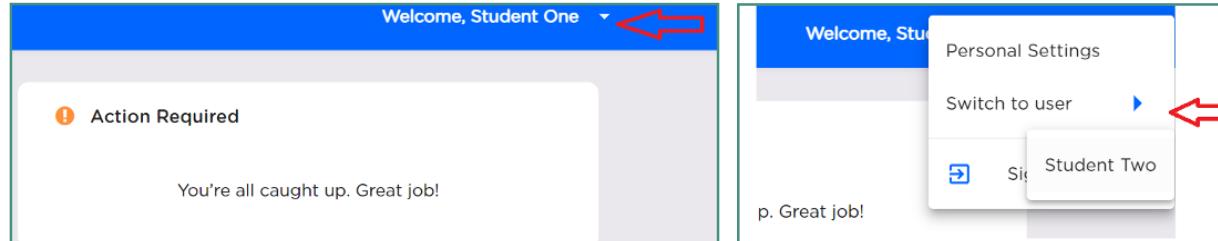
## ACCESSING ESA FUNDS FOR MULTIPLE STUDENTS

If a family has multiple students participating in CHOOSE Act Alabama, each student will receive a digital wallet account. The parent/guardian can switch between accounts within the ClassWallet platform.

**Note:** For a family with multiple students enrolled in a home education program, you will see all eligible students that were approved for the CHOOSE Act Alabama program in your ClassWallet digital wallet. Only two student accounts will reflect the funds. However, you will be able to use the CHOOSE Act funds for all students who were **eligible** for the CHOOSE Act program. The total award amount for the homeschool education credit is still capped at \$4,000 per family and each awarded student's (participating student) purse will only show the maximum allowed amount of \$2,000 each. Purchase limitations for computers and technological aids for participating students still apply.

**Keep in mind that each participating student's ESA is an individual ESA account and funds can only be used for that student's educational expenses.**

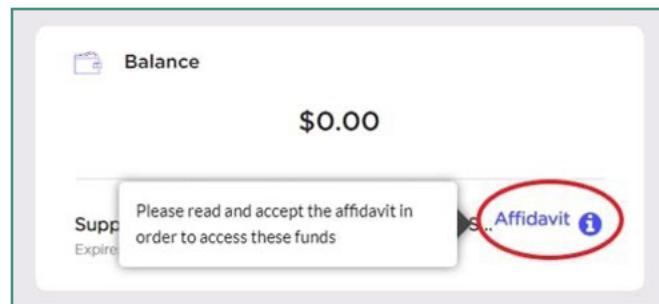
From the ClassWallet homepage, click on the small arrow (pointing down) in the upper right-hand corner of the application, next to where it says "Welcome." Step-by-step instructions are available [here](#).



## ACCEPTING THE AFFIDAVIT

**Participating families will be required to accept the CHOOSE Act Alabama Affidavit for each participating student before receiving access to the funds.**

The link to this affidavit will be available in the "Balance" tile once the account is funded and gives an overview of participant responsibilities.



## AFFIDAVIT RESPONSE OPTIONS

- **Accept** – The account balance will be visible and funds immediately available for use. Keep in mind that the affidavit will not be visible until the account is funded.
- **Skip For Now** – The account will be visible, but the balance will be \$0. The affidavit must be accepted in order to view balance and use funds.
- **Reject** – Decline and withdraw from CHOOSE Act Alabama. If "Reject" is accidentally selected, contact the ClassWallet Customer Support Team to reset.

### Important Notes:

- The affidavit will not be visible until the account is funded.
- **If there is more than one participating student in a family, the affidavit will need to be accepted for each student.**
- If the affidavit is accidentally rejected, contact the ClassWallet Customer Support Team to reset the affidavit selection.

# EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Education Service Providers (ESPs) are individuals or organizations approved by ALDOR to provide educational goods and services to participating families.

ALDOR has developed an application process for ESP participation. An accredited public or private K5-12 Alabama school can become an ESP by meeting [certain requirements](#) to become a participating school. This application is available year-round [here](#) and, by state law, all ESPs must agree to adhere to the attestation found in the ESP application.

A private tutor must either be accredited or have a bachelor's degree or state certification, to be approved as an ESP. Educational therapists must have a valid license in the therapy they provide. Both private tutors and educational therapists must have a completed background check. Documentation must be submitted at the time of application.



## Important Notes:

- Once approved by ALDOR, the ESP must register with ClassWallet to begin receiving payments from participating families.
- All approved ESPs are visible to participants within the ClassWallet platform. The list is also publicly available on the CHOOSE Act Alabama [website](#).**
- The parent is responsible for selecting the ESP.** It is the responsibility of the parent to measure the overall effectiveness of a provider for each individual student.
- Participating families are responsible for any costs associated with their student's education over and above the ESA.
- The parent of a participating student cannot receive payment for services or products provided to such student in their capacity as an education service provider.

# APPROVED EXPENSES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

## Tuition and Fees at a Participating School

- Academic fee
- Activity fee
- Administration fee
- Application fee
- Book fee
- Curriculum fee
- Enrollment, Registration, and Pre-registration fees
- Fine Arts fee
- Library fee
- Music fee
- Programming fee
- Resource fee
- School fee
- Science Lab fee
- Security fee
- Student fee
- Supply fee
- Technology fee
- Testing fee
- Tuition

## \* Disallowed School Fees Include:

- Annual fee
- Athletic/Sports fee
- Before and after school child care
- Capital or building campaign
- Child care
- Commitment fee
- Food
- Field trip
- Fundraising
- Insurance
- Late fee
- Maintenance fee
- Missed session/cancellation fee
- PTO/PTA fee
- School accreditation fee
- Senior class/graduation fee
- Transportation
- Uniforms

## Textbooks

(K5-12, in the following subject areas only):

- Art
- English Language Arts (*including Phonics, Grammar, Reading, and Writing*)
- Foreign Languages
- Mathematics
- Music
- Religion
- Science (*including Computer Science and Engineering*)
- Social Studies (*including History, Civics, and Character Education*)

## Fees for After-School or Summer Education Programs Provided by a Participating School

(After school program that is education-based and does not include child care. The program must be within the academic year.)

## Curriculum and Supplemental Reading Materials

(for individual student use only)

- Reference books
- Supplemental reading materials associated with approved textbook subjects
- Workbooks and flashcards

### Important Notes:

Participating families are responsible for any costs associated with school expenses over and above the ESA balance. Participants may want to discuss their financial obligations with the school.

## Instructional Materials

(no bulk orders, individual student use only)

- Binders (3-ring, etc.)
- Blackboard chalk
- Calculators (including graphing)
- Clay and glazes
- Colored pencils and crayons
- Compasses
- Dry erase and black boards (under \$50)
- Erasers
- Folders
- Globes and maps
- Glue
- Index cards and card holders
- Markers (*including dry erase and highlighters*)
- Math manipulatives (*only when included in curriculum; no Legos*)
- Notebooks (*including composition notebooks and notepads*)
- Paintbrushes for artwork
- Paints (*acrylic, tempera, oil, and watercolors*)
- Paper (*lined, copy, construction, graph, manila, tracing, and legal pads*)
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pencils and pens
- Post-it notes (sticky notes)
- Poster board
- Protractors and rulers
- Science kits and lab kits (*only when included in curriculum*)
- Scissors
- Sketch and drawing pads

## Private Tutoring

(can be in-person or online)

- Art
- English Language Arts (*including Phonics, Grammar, Reading, and Writing*)
- Foreign Languages
- Mathematics
- Music (*including voice or musical instrument lessons*)
- Religion
- Science (*including Computer Science and Engineering*)
- Social Studies (*including History, Civics, and Character Education*)
- Supply fees charged by the tutor (*this cannot include transportation*)

## Computers

(used primarily for a student's educational needs and approved by ALDOR or required by a licensed physician)

- Laptop, desktop, and tablet computers under \$1,200 per participating student
- Product warranties included as part of the purchase are approved

### Important Note:

Computer and technological items identified as "gaming" will not be approved. The purchase of computers is limited to \$1,200 for one item within this category every two years per participating student. Computers can only be purchased for the awarded student (participating student), not all eligible students. Purchases for all other categories can be made for an awarded or eligible student.

## Technological Aids

(used primarily for a student's educational needs and approved by the department or a licensed physician)

- Apple Pen
- Charging cords and cables
- Headphones / Headsets (*limited to \$100 each, two per participating student annually*)
- Keyboards (*limited to \$100 each, two per participating student annually*)
- LCD writing tablets
- Monitors
- Mouse (*limited to \$40 each, two per participating student annually*)
- Mouse pad / USBs (*limited to \$25 each, two per participating student annually*)
- Printers and ink (*3D printers are not approved*)
- Protective case for technology (*iPad case, laptop case, etc.*)

### Important Note:

**Technological devices purchases are limited to \$500 total per academic year, per participating student.**

External speakers, external hard drives, SMARTboards and TVs will not be approved.

Technological aids can only be purchased for the awarded student (participating student), not all eligible students. Purchases for all other categories can be made for an awarded (participating) or eligible student.

## Tuition and Fees for an Approved Nonpublic K5-12 Online Learning Program

Classes and courses in the following subjects are approved:

- Art
- English Language Arts (*including Phonics, Grammar, Reading, and Writing*)
- Foreign Languages
- Mathematics
- Music
- Religion
- Science (*including Computer Sciences and Engineering*)
- Social Studies (*including History, Civics, and Character Education*)
- Test Preparation (AP, SAT, ACT, etc.)

## Educational Therapies for Students with Disabilities (must be a licensed or accredited practitioner)

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy
- Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Therapies
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Vision Therapy

### Important Note:

Fees for initial evaluations are approved expenses.

## Educational Software and Applications

Classes or courses for K5-12 in the following subjects:

- Art
- English Language Arts (*including Phonics, Grammar, Reading, and Writing*)
- Foreign Languages
- Mathematics
- Music
- Religion
- Science (*including Computer Science and Engineering*)
- Social Studies (*including History, Civics, and Character Education*)

### Important Note:

This includes software and applications for special-needs students such as dictation software, braille translation software, and other assistive software programs.

## Fees for Standardized and Nationally Recognized Assessments, including college admissions tests and advanced placement examinations and related preparatory courses.

## Contracted Services Provided by a Public School District Including Specific Classroom Instruction

### Important Note:

All expenses are reviewed by ALDOR to ensure compliance with the program. While each ESP has the discretion to set pricing, ALDOR reserves the right to reject any invoice that is not within reason or is suspected as being fraudulent. ALDOR also has the authority to add or remove items on the 2026-2027 Approved Expenses List.



## MAKING PAYMENTS AND PURCHASES THROUGH CLASSWALLET

Once the ClassWallet account is funded and the affidavit accepted, participants can shop through the integrated ClassWallet Marketplace and issue payments to ESPs (schools, tutors, etc.).

**Two options are available:**

- 1 Make payments to ESPs using the "Pay Vendor" feature on the ClassWallet homepage. ESPs listed here include schools, private tutors, therapists, etc. View a step-by-step guide on making a payment through "Pay Vendor" [here](#).

**Important Note:**

**To make a payment, an invoice is required. The invoice must include the following information or it will be rejected:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Provider Name and Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Date(s) of Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Type of Service (what payment is for)
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Amount Due
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of Invoice	

**Handwritten documentation will not be approved.**

Payment for services can be made prior to the service(s) or paid after service(s) have been rendered. **However, only invoices for services provided during the 2026-2027 academic year will be approved.**

An invoice can include charges for multiple students. However, charges must be listed separately and identifiable for each student.

**If an invoice submitted by a family contains ineligible expenses, the entire invoice will be rejected.**

- 2 Purchase approved educational items with ESA funds, like school supplies and technology through the **ClassWallet Marketplace**. View retailers by logging into the ClassWallet Marketplace platform and clicking on "**Start Shopping**". A step-by-step guide is available [here](#).

**Important:**

The retailers shown in the ClassWallet Marketplace have all been approved to participate by ALDOR and the items they have available are approved for purchase with ESA funds. However, if a non-qualifying educational expense is listed on the Marketplace, it will not be approved. Only qualifying educational expenses will be approved. See pp. 9-11 for a list of qualifying educational expenses.

## CHOOSING AN EXPENSE CATEGORY

As part of the payment process, an expense category will need to be selected.

### **The categories available are:**

- Computers and technological aids
- Curriculum and supplemental reading materials
- Educational software and applications
- Educational therapies for students with disabilities
- Fees for after-school or summer education programs provided by a participating school
- Fees for standardized and nationally recognized assessments
- Instructional materials (i.e., school supplies)
- Private Tutoring in approved subjects
- Services provided by a public school district including specific classroom instruction
- Textbooks in approved subjects
- Tuition and fees at a participating school
- Tuition and fees for an approved nonpublic K5-12 online learning program

**More than one category can be selected per invoice.** For example, if the invoice includes **tuition** and **tutoring fees**, select both the **"Tuition and fees at a participating school"** and **"Private Tutoring"** categories.

### **Things to Remember:**

- The participating family receives an email confirmation upon order submission.
- All purchases and payments are reviewed to ensure compliance with CHOOSE Act Alabama guidelines.

**\* Note: If an invoice submitted by a family contains ineligible expenses, the entire invoice will be rejected.**

- ESPs will continue to be approved by ALDOR and added throughout the year.
- If a purchase or payment is rejected for any reason, the participating family receives an email notification. The funds are immediately returned to the ESA and available for reuse.

## ESA RENEWAL

**Current CHOOSE Act Alabama participants will be given the opportunity to indicate that they would like to continue participation.**

More information on the process will be provided to all participants in early 2027.

**Any funds left in the account at the end of the school year will be returned to the CHOOSE Act Fund.**

**If a student leaves the ESA program, any funds left in the account will be returned to ALDOR.**

## SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

The CHOOSE Act Alabama [website](#) is up-to-date with the latest information and the ClassWallet [Knowledge Base](#) is full of resources.

 **For all general CHOOSE Act Alabama and digital wallet questions, ClassWallet is ready to help!**

Phone: **877-969-5536**

Email: [help@classwallet.com](mailto:help@classwallet.com)

Customer support is available Monday through Friday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. CT and Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT.

[The CHOOSE Act Alabama Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[The CHOOSE Act Alabama Education Service Provider Guide](#)

[Watch a Recorded Webinar](#)

[Review The CHOOSE Act Statute](#)

[Review The CHOOSE Act Administrative Rules](#)