

Education Freedom Accounts (EFA)

Private School Application



Complete this form & return to the Arkansas Department of Education:
ADE.EFA@ade.Arkansas.Gov
OR
Education Freedom Accounts
4 Capitol Mall
Box 23
Little Rock, AR 72201

Name of School: _____

School Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

School Contact Information:

Street and/or Route Number

Phone

City, State, Zip

Fax

A1. Please verify that your school is located in Arkansas and either:

- Meets the accreditation requirements set by the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education.

Accrediting Authority: _____

OR

- Is an associate member of or has applied for accreditation by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education. **Please submit an attachment providing proof from the accrediting association.**

Accrediting Authority: _____

- I affirm that if, at any point following the school's approval to participate in the Education Freedom Accounts, the accrediting association determines that the school is ineligible or unable to continue the accreditation process, or it becomes impossible for the private school to obtain accreditation within four (4) years from the date of eligibility, the school will notify the State Board of Education or its designee and the parents/legal guardians of EFA students enrolled in or regularly attending the school within ten (10) days. Note that eligibility can be regained when the private school receives accreditation and approval from the state board.

Initial: _____

A2. Please verify that your school demonstrates fiscal soundness by one (1) of the following methods and **submit proof as an attachment:**

- The school has been in operation for one (1) school year.

OR

- A statement by a certified public accountant is **attached** confirming that:
- The school is insured; and
 - The school has sufficient capital or credit to operate in the upcoming school year.

OR

- A surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the account funds for any quarter has been filed with the Arkansas Department of Education's Fiscal & Administrative Services Division and is **attached**.

A3. Please certify that your school will not discriminate on any basis prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, as it existed on January 1, 2023 (available [here](#)).

- I verify that the school is in full compliance.

Initial: _____

A4. Please verify that your school shall comply with all applicable health and safety laws and rules. Schools shall also complete background checks and fingerprinting for any employee working in the private school and maintain a background check for all employees for audit purposes. Employment should be denied or terminated if an employee fails to meet the screening standards.

I verify that the school meets all requirements and maintains such an environment.

Initial: _____

A5. Please verify that your school will remain academically accountable to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of any Education Freedom Account student(s) in meeting the educational needs of students.

I verify that the school is academically accountable to parents/legal guardians of Education Freedom Account students.

Initial: _____

A6. Please verify that your school only employs or contracts with teachers who hold at least baccalaureate degrees or have equivalent documented experience.

I verify that the school only employs or contracts with teachers who hold such degrees or equivalent documented experience.

Initial: _____

A7. Please verify that your school will exclude any individual from employment who may reasonably pose a risk to the appropriate use of Education Freedom Account funds disbursed.

I verify that the school will only employ individuals that do not pose a risk to appropriate use of funds.

Initial: _____

A8. Please verify that your school will hold valid occupancy of buildings as required by the relevant municipality in which the private school is located.

I verify that the school will hold valid occupancy as required by the municipality.

Initial: _____

A9. Please verify that your school will comply with all state laws and regulations governing private schools.

I verify that the school will remain in full compliance.

Initial: _____

A10. Please affirm that your school will adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary procedures before an expulsion of a student participating in the Education Freedom Accounts.

- I affirm that the school will adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary procedures before expelling an Education Freedom Account student.

Initial: _____

B1. Please affirm that your school shall provide annually for a student participating in the Education Freedom Accounts to take an assessment approved by the State Board of Education, including an examination identified by the state board that is required for students attending public schools or a state board-approved, nationally recognized norm-referenced test or statewide assessment (which measures at a minimum literacy and math).

A participating student who has an individualized service plan and is determined by a participating private school to need an exemption from standardized testing due to the existence of a significant cognitive disability is not required to take the test. However, a participating private school shall annually make provision for the student to take an alternate assessment approved by the state board or prepare a portfolio that provides information on a student's progress to the student's parent or guardian.

- I affirm that the school will administer such standardized tests annually and that the school will accommodate students with disabilities that exempt them from standardized testing.

Standardized test(s) used: _____

Initial: _____

B2. Please affirm that your school will notify the State Board of Education or its designee if any student participating in the Education Freedom Accounts ceases to be enrolled in or regularly attend the school for any reason.

- I affirm that the school will notify the State Board of Education or its designee if any student participating in the Education Freedom Accounts ceases to be enrolled in or regularly attend the school.
- I affirm that the school will confirm a list with the Arkansas Department of Education of EFA approved students enrolled in your school for the 2023-2024 school year by August 18, 2023 and on a quarterly basis thereafter.
- I understand that my school is only eligible to receive payment for the cost of tuition associated with the days when a participating student is enrolled in and attending the school. EFA funds are awarded to schools 4 times a year. If a student unenrolls early in a quarterly period and the fund disbursement has already been made to the school, the school must return these excess funds to the ADE. A determination of the amount that needs to be returned will be made by the ADE (a pro-rated calculation will be made). Any outstanding amount owed by the family as determined by school policy is to be handled between families and schools.

Initial: _____

C1. Please attach a tuition schedule for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

C2. Please attach an academic calendar for your school for the 2023-2024 school year.

C3. Please indicate the general application dates for your school (or type "N/A" if rolling):

Application opens: _____ Application closes: _____ Decisions released: _____

C4. Please attach an itemized list of all required student expenses and the vendors/service providers your school uses for these expenses (e.g., uniforms, laptops, etc.).

D1. If applicable, please specify the grade levels and services that your school has available for students with severe disabilities who are participating in the EFA. Attach pages if necessary.

Grades Levels: _____

Types of Services: _____

Note: Please type your full name below to record your signature.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please ensure all required documentation is submitted with the completed application. Incomplete applications and applications submitted without required documentation will be denied.