

# Impacts of Universal ESA Vouchers



TOTAL 2023 COST OF ESA VOUCHERS:

**\$450 MILLION**

## The New Landscape

In June 2022, Gov. Ducey and the Republican-controlled Legislature expanded ESA vouchers indiscriminately to every child in the state without regard for need.

Just a few months later, Arizona's ESA voucher program has become the most far-reaching and costly in the nation.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED:

**45,170  
STUDENTS**



PERCENT INCREASE:

**400%**

## Establish accountability for all public funds spent on education

- The ESA program has already quadrupled in size, now covering more students than many school districts.<sup>1</sup>
- ADE reports Arizona is now spending at least \$313 million on ESA vouchers for this school year alone.<sup>2</sup> The JLBC had originally projected a cost of just \$33.4 million for FY2023.<sup>3</sup>
- It is likely that the entire ESA voucher program will cost the state well over \$500 million total this school year, reaching \$1 billion in a few short years.<sup>4</sup>
- ESA vouchers grew by 400% after they were expanded universally, from 11,000 students to 45,170
- The program's primary beneficiaries are students from wealthier families in Maricopa & Pima counties, nearly all of whom already have access access to well-performing public schools in their neighborhoods
- Only 8,000 students in the program qualify as special needs – the kids for whom the program was originally sold.

**Learn more at [SOSArizona.org](https://SOSArizona.org) and [SOSAZNetwork.org](https://SOSAZNetwork.org)**

1. "Voucher program will spend more than \$300 million this school year," *Arizona Republic*, 11/29/22.

2. "Voucher program will spend more than \$300 million this school year," *Arizona Republic*, 11/29/22.

3. *Joint Legislative Budget Committee Fiscal Note for HB2853*, 6/16/22.

4. "Arizona Voucher Program Grows by 400%, Stripping \$300 Million from AZ Public Schools," *Save Our Schools Arizona Network*, 12/3/22.