



## Arkansas LEARNs & the Education Freedom Account (EFA) Program *Important Information for Fayetteville Christian School Families*

### Frequently Asked Questions for the 2025-2026 EFA Voucher Program

#### • What is an Education Freedom Account (EFA)?

- In 2023, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and her team enacted the Arkansas LEARNs Act, an education initiative created to address several issues within the Arkansas school system (more information can be found at <https://learns.ade.arkansas.gov>).
- One of the programs under the LEARNs Act is the Education Freedom Account (EFA) voucher program. This school-choice program is designed to empower Arkansas families by providing state funding for K-12th grade students (it does not cover Pre-K students) enrolled in private school or home school.
- Fayetteville Christian School (FCS) is recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) as a qualified EFA service provider. This means that **your student, while enrolled at FCS, can receive EFA funding to pay for their FCS 2025-2026 tuition and fees.**

#### • Who can participate in the 2025-26 EFA voucher program?

- The program was limited to certain qualifying students in the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years; but **for the 2025-26 school year, all Arkansas students (Kindergarten-12th grades) enrolled in a private school (or home school) will be eligible to receive EFA funding.**

#### • What is the total funding amount per student for the 2025-2026 school year?

- Each student accepted into the 2025-2026 EFA program will receive an **annual net amount (after transaction fees) of \$6,864**, which will be disbursed quarterly (**\$1,716 quarterly**) into an EFA account for that student. This account is not a bank account but rather an online portal that parents can access through a login/password in order to pay for EFA eligible expenses, such as school tuition and fees.

#### • How do I apply for the EFA program and what documents will I need?

- The **EFA Application Portal** for the 2025-2026 school year is open and can be found at <https://dese.link/efa>. All families (even those already in the 2024-2025 EFA program) will need to apply.

- FCS is encouraging our families to **apply as soon as possible. It will be EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that FCS families respond promptly to EFA deadlines and tuition payment schedules.**
- In addition, any violation of the stated EFA program rules could result in a student/family being removed from the program by the ADE. If this happens, the parents would then be responsible to pay for any remaining tuition and fees owed to FCS from their own funds.
- Documents needed for first-time applicants:
  - The parent/legal guardian who is applying will need to show **proof of residency in Arkansas** (current utility bill, mortgage statement, tax document, or driver's license).
  - You will also need an **age verification document showing the student's date of birth** (birth certificate, passport, driver's license, or other official document).
  - In addition, you will need the student's social security number (no document needed).
- Documents needed for renewal applicants:
  - If you are filling out a **renewal application** for your student because they were in the EFA program in 2024-2025, you will not need any documents. You will, however, need the student's SSN and EFA ID from Class Wallet.

### • **How are applications processed and could EFA funding run out?**

- Although the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is optimistic that there will be enough funding for all Arkansas families who choose to participate, EFA funding will be awarded based on funding priority categories within priority application windows.
- Applications are reviewed once an application priority window closes (see *Application Processing Windows* section below). ADE will evaluate and approve all applications submitted within the recent priority window and fund student EFAs based on the following priority categories:
  - **Priority 1: Returning EFA Participants** - Students who already had an EFA in the 2024-2025 school year.
  - **Priority 2: Students with Specialized Needs** - Students who require additional educational support (i.e. students with a disability as defined under IDEA, Succeed Scholarship recipients, or homeless or foster students).
  - **Priority 3: Students from Underserved Educational Environments** - Students who were enrolled in a D or F-rated school during the previous academic year.
  - **Priority 4: Military, First Responders, & Law Enforcement Families** - Students whose parents are active-duty military, veterans, Arkansas National Guard members, law enforcement officers, or first responders.
  - **Priority 5: Early Education Students** - First-time kindergarten students.
  - **Priority 6: New Students without a Priority Qualification** - Students who do not fall into any of the categories listed above.

- Application Processing Windows:
  - Priority Window A: March 3-March 23
  - Priority Window B: March 24-April 13
  - Priority Window C: April 14-May 4
  - Priority Window D: May 5-25
  - The application portal will be closed from May 26-June 1.
  - Priority Window E: June 2-June 22
  - Priority Window F: June 23-July 13
  - Priority Window G: July 14-August 3
  - The program will continue processing applications in three-week Priority Windows until January 31, 2026.

- **What should I expect after I submit the EFA application?**

- Once you've submitted your application, you will receive an email from FACTS with the following subject line (check your spam folder if you don't see it): 2025-2026 Grant & Aid Application Submitted. It will tell you if you need to do anything else (ex: upload documents).
- Once the application is complete and all documents have been uploaded, you will receive an email from FACTS with the following subject line: 2025-2026 Grant & Aid Application Complete.
- Applications can take up to 10 business days to process; however, it may take longer if there is a high volume of applications being submitted.
- At some point after your application is approved, you will be invited to participate in the 2025-2026 EFA program. You will receive a WELCOME email from ADE/Class Wallet. Class Wallet is the 3rd party platform for receiving your student's quarterly funding and for paying for EFA eligible items, such as tuition and fees. You will be instructed to set up an account with Class Wallet.

- **How can I find out more information like what types of services/items qualify as EFA-eligible expenses?**

- Please visit the following website for more information about the EFA program, including what qualifies as an eligible expense: <https://learns.ade.arkansas.gov>. Once there, click on the **Information for Families** link.

- **Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

- **Fayetteville Christian School Treasurer & EFA Program Support Contact: Audrey Blevins - email: [audrey.blevins@fayettevillechristianschool.com](mailto:audrey.blevins@fayettevillechristianschool.com)**
- Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment, Arkansas Department of Education email: [ade.efa@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.efa@ade.arkansas.gov)
- Class Wallet contact info: [help@classwallet.com](mailto:help@classwallet.com) or 877-969-5536 (Please only contact Class Wallet *after* you have been accepted into the program and have received the *Welcome* email from Class Wallet.)

- **What are my next steps?**

- Once your family has been admitted to Fayetteville Christian School for the 2025-2026 school year, please make sure you apply for the 2025-2026 EFA program right away. Again, the link to apply can be found at <https://dese.link/efa>.
- I will be working with FCS families each step of the way as you navigate the EFA process. Most of the **Fayetteville Christian School EFA updates** for deadlines and other important information will be **sent via the Remind app**; therefore, it will be important to follow the prompts to **enroll in the FCS Remind texts** when you receive instructions to do so.

FCS is excited to participate in the EFA program, and we are looking forward to the benefits that will come from all of our families being able to receive EFA funding. Once you are approved to participate in the EFA program, you will be given additional instructions for what your next steps will be.

If you have any questions or need more information, please email me at the address listed below.

Thank you,



**Audrey Blevins**

FCS Treasurer &

EFA Program Support Contact

Fayetteville Christian School

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