



## Arkansas LEARNS & the Education Freedom Account Program *Important Information for Fayetteville Christian School Families*

### 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) program. This school-choice program is designed to empower Arkansas families by providing state funding for K-12th grade students enrolled in private school or home school. **For the 2026-27 school year, all Arkansas resident students (Kindergarten-12th grades) will be eligible to receive EFA funding.**

Each student accepted into the **2026-27 EFA program** will receive an **annual amount of \$7,208 (\$1,802 quarterly)**, which will be disbursed 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.

Fayetteville Christian School (FCS) is recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education as a qualified EFA service provider. This means that **your student**, while enrolled at FCS, **can receive EFA funding to pay for their FCS 2026-27 tuition and fees.**

### How do I apply for the EFA program?

The **EFA Application portal for the 2026-27 school year opened on March 9th.** The application process is different for NEW students versus RETURNING students.

1) Students that are **NEW to the EFA program** will apply through **FACTS**. Visit [www.arkansasefa.com](http://www.arkansasefa.com) 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.

2) **Returning EFA students** will re-apply by completing a renewal survey for each student through **ClassWallet** (<https://app.classwallet.com>). If you have both new and returning students, you will apply through **FACTS (new)** and **ClassWallet (returning)**.

Please visit the following website for more information about the EFA program, including what qualifies as an eligible expense:

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-school-choice-and-parent-empowerment/education-freedom-accounts/information-for-families>

## **What are my next steps?**

1) Gather the following application documents (new students):

**Residency Verification:** One form of verification matching the physical address and name of the applicant and/or co-applicant as listed on the application.

Approved documents include:

- Driver's License or State Issued ID
- Utility Bills (Gas, Electric, Water, Trash Collection)
- Government/ Govt. Agency-Issued Mail (TANF, SNAP, voter registration card, tax assessments, etc.)
- Rental or Lease Agreement/ Mortgage Statements
- Military Orders

Document must be the full bill, page, or document showing dates confirming it is recent and not expired.

**Age Verification:** One form legal documentation for the student's date of birth. The document must match the student's name as listed on the application.

Approved documents may include:

- Passport (Country of origin is not a factor)
- Birth Certificate (Country of origin is not a factor)
- Driver's License or State issued ID
- Immunization Records
- Adoption decrees/foster paperwork

2) Apply for your new and returning EFA students right away. There are application priority windows, and if funds do run out at some point, you will want your application to be in the earliest priority window possible.

I will be working with FCS families each step of the way as you navigate the EFA process. Most of the **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 again, and we are looking forward to the benefits that will come from our families being able to receive EFA funding.

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

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey Blevins".

**Audrey Blevins**

FCS Treasurer &

EFA Program Support Contact

Fayetteville Christian School

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