



Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE)

Education Savings Scholarships

If an entity accepts the state funding, that entity needs to provide an appropriate education that aligns to the expectations of FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) and provide all the necessary educational services that were outlined within that student's IEP which had been written by the case conference committee which includes the parent as a member. Expectations and accountability should not be lessened. The student's academic, social and emotional learning needs to be encased within the plan.

For any entity to accept state funding, ICASE believes the following must be included in the plan:

- **Accountability for outcomes**
There needs to be a required percentage to focus on academic standards or content connectors.
- **Growth requirement**
There has to be proof of student growth or an outcome benchmark for renewal of choice scholarships or educational savings scholarships.
- **Guardrails to limit fraud**
An educational plan needs to be created and approved prior to enrollment.
Accountability measures need to be in place to ensure students are making progress.
- **Proof that programs have already been successful**
Parents will become prey for programs that do not produce true results. This will result in false hope and empty promises and the child missing out on a true education. Prior to spending a dime, outlined goals with expectations for progress must be set in place. Public schools already have to do this.
- **Identified educational outcomes / benefits**
All qualified services need to have an educational outcome/benefit. Providers need to meet required credentials and certifications.
- **Policies to prevent discrimination / enrollment in the nonpublic schools**
Private schools can discriminate against students with disabilities whenever 'things' get too tough or inconvenient. Private schools can ask a student to leave at any time without any recourse or reason. The public schools are mandated to welcome all who enter their doors regardless of what that student's needs may be.
- **Alternate assessment**
There is no mention of alternative assessment which discriminates against students with more significant disabilities.

ICASE sees the expansion of choice scholarships and educational savings scholarships as having a significant risk of harming students.