



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Fourth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1224

empowerment scholarships; qualified schools; reservations

Purpose

Allows a qualified student who resides on an Indian reservation to use Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) monies to attend a nongovernmental school located in an adjacent state within two miles of the reservation boundary.

Background:

A qualified student may use ESA monies for required textbooks and tuition or fees at a qualified school. For the purposes of ESAs, a *qualified school* is a nongovernmental primary or secondary school or preschool for pupils with disabilities that is located in Arizona and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin ([A.R.S. § 15-2401](#)).

For the purposes of ESAs, a *qualified student* is a resident of Arizona who is any of the following: 1) a child with disabilities; 2) a student attending D and F schools or school districts; 3) a previous ESA and Arizona Scholarships for Pupils with Disabilities Program recipient; 4) a child with a parent in the U.S. Armed Forces who is on active duty or was killed in the line of duty; 5) a child who is or was a ward of the court with a permanent guardian or prospective permanent guardian; 6) a sibling of current or previous ESA recipients; 7) a resident of an Indian reservation in Arizona; or 8) a child of a parent who is legally blind, deaf or hard of hearing ([A.R.S. § 15-2401](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions:

1. Includes, as a *qualified school*, a nongovernmental school, for students residing in an Indian reservation in Arizona, that is located:
  - a) in an adjacent state; and
  - b) within two miles of the boundary of the Indian reservation on which the student resides.
2. Includes *stepparent* in the definition of *parent*.
3. Makes technical changes.
4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research  
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JO/JP/gs