



ESA Funding - How Much Can I Expect?

Generally, funding for students without disabilities ranges from \$6,000 to \$9,000 for 1st-12th graders and \$4,000 to \$5,000 for kindergarteners. However, children with disabilities receive additional funding based on their eligibility under The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA outlines 13 disability categories, each with distinct characteristics and educational impacts:

- 1. Specific Learning Disability (SLD):** Challenges affecting reading, writing, listening, speaking, reasoning, or math, including dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia.
- 2. Other Health Impairment:** Conditions like ADHD that impact strength, energy, or alertness.
- 3. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):** A disorder that impairs the ability to communicate and interact.
- 4. Emotional Disturbance:** Mental health issues such as anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression that significantly impair educational performance.
- 5. Speech or Language Impairment:** Difficulties with speech production, pronunciation, or language comprehension.
- 6. Visual Impairment, Including Blindness:** Partial sight or blindness that is not correctable with eyewear.
- 7. Deafness:** Inability to hear most or all sounds, even with a hearing aid.
- 8. Hearing Impairment:** Hearing loss (not deafness) that adversely affects a child's educational performance. It may change over time.
- 9. Deaf-Blindness:** Severe hearing and vision loss that requires unique educational programs.
- 10. Orthopedic Impairment:** Lack of function or ability in the body, such as cerebral palsy.
- 11. Intellectual Disability:** Below-average intellectual ability with poor communication, self-care, and social skills.
- 12. Traumatic Brain Injury:** Brain injury resulting from accidents or physical force.
- 13. Multiple Disabilities:** Presence of more than one covered condition that leads to complex educational needs. I.e., a student with Autism and a Speech impairment.

If your child falls into one of these categories and their disability significantly affects their education, they may be eligible for additional funding. For instance, a student categorized with Autism Spectrum Disorder could potentially receive \$30,000 to \$43,000 per year. Similarly, a student classified with visual impairment might receive funding ranging from \$19,000 to \$38,000 annually. The Arizona Department of Education provides a [chart](#) detailing approximate funding per disability category.

There is a range of funding due to how the ESA program works. The state allocates 90% of the state funding that would have been provided to a public school for the specific student. The funding changes for students with disabilities because they often require additional support and resources to access education effectively. The IDEA mandates that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) tailored to their needs. It may include specialized instruction, therapies, assistive technology, and other accommodations or services.

Since the cost of educating a student with a disability is higher than that of educating a student without disabilities, ESA provides additional financial support to students with disabilities. The amount of funding a student receives depends on the severity of their diagnosis and how significantly it impacts their education. Students with more severe diagnoses that significantly affect their ability to learn typically receive more funding than those with less serious diagnoses.

It is not possible to receive increased funding by combining multiple disability categories. For example, if your child has both Autism and a Speech Impairment, then your child qualifies for the “Multiple Disabilities” category.

In summary, ESA funding varies based on the student’s disability category. By providing a range of funding, the ESA program aims to empower students with disabilities to thrive academically and reach their full potential.

If you have any questions or need assistance navigating this process, please don’t hesitate to reach out to hello@loveyourschool.org! If you have more questions, we want to hear from you!

More Resources!

[The 13 disability categories under IDEA - Understood.Com](#)

[Approximate Annual ESA Funding - Arizona Department of Education](#)

[How ESAs Help Kids With Disabilities – The Odyssey](#)