

COMPARING BOTH EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS PROPOSALS



TITLE	Education Savings Account Act	Educational Freedom Act
PROPOSERS	Co-Chairs: Democrat Gloria Romero & Republican Richard Grenell Board Members: Cecilia Iglesias, Saga Conroy, Maryam Qudrat.	Michael Alexander, Dale Broome, Marc Ang, Brian Hawkins, Stephen Smith.
ESA AMOUNT	Provides K-12 students who opt into an Education Savings Account (ESA) \$13,000 per year in state education funds.	\$14,000 in funding – this is more than state education funds currently cover exposing this program to unknown economic shifts.
USE OF ESA FUNDS	Covers tuition at a participating K-12 accredited school as well as eligible education expenses, including books, school supplies, tutoring, fees, special needs services, transportation to & from school functions with a balanced audit function to avoid fraud.	Provides similar funds for tuition and other eligible education expenses at participating schools, but an unclear reimbursement process may expose families to extra state scrutiny.
PHASE-IN	Program phases-in by income level allowing for low and moderate-income students to find school placement first while new schools are created; Year 1-2: families making less than \$100k/year (60% of CA families qualify); Year 3-4: families making less than \$200k (86% of CA families qualify); after Year 4, everyone is eligible.	No phase in for low and moderate-income students. No plan to accommodate an influx of students with currently limited classroom space.
ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS	Can be used at any accredited school including home schools.	While it can be used at any accredited school that has agreed to participate, proponents are confusing parents by suggesting these funds can be used for charter schools which is not a part of the proposal.
HOMESCHOOL	Allows homeschoolers to be enrolled in the program through an accredited program, though at the request of prominent homeschool organizations, it excludes & protects private homeschools operating under private school affidavits who currently receive no government funds.	Allows homeschoolers to be enrolled in the program without going through an accredited program likely exposing them to intrusive government oversight.
COLLEGE SAVINGS	Allows up to \$60,000 to be saved for college or vocational school if there is extra money.	No cap on what can be saved for college; critics will have a field day with this provision.

