How to Apply to the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship

1. Go to the following website: https://www.azed.gov/esa

2. Click "Apply Now"

SY 2022-2023   Students & Families   Educators   Administrators   P

Home / Empowerment Scholarship Account Program / Welcome to the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program

Welcome to the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program

IMPORTANT UPDATES REGARDING H.B. 2853

On September 23, 2022, the Secretary of State's Office notified the Department that the Universal expansion portion of H.B. 2853 did not take effect on September 24th because of the referendum process under the Arizona Constitution. For more information on this process, please see the Initiative and Referendum Guide or visit the Secretary of State's website at Arizona Secretary of State (azsos.gov). Please note the Secretary of State's Office has indicated that this process can take up to **35 business days** per state statute.

At this time, *all completed applications received under the "Universal" category will remain on hold until we receive official notice from the Secretary of State's Office.*

Because of the current uncertainty around if and when Universal ESA will take effect, ADE has developed the following plan. This plan will give our information system set variables to work with, which is necessary for processing, and will allow applicants to receive retroactive Quarter 1 funding if and when Universal ESA takes effect. **To ensure you are eligible to receive Quarter 1 funding if and when Universal ESA takes effect, you _must_ do all three of the following:**

1. **Apply by 9/30** (the last day of Quarter 1). Click here to apply: https://esa.azed.gov/Account
2. If applicable, **resolve any application deficiencies** *within 30 days* of the initial incomplete notice by ADE
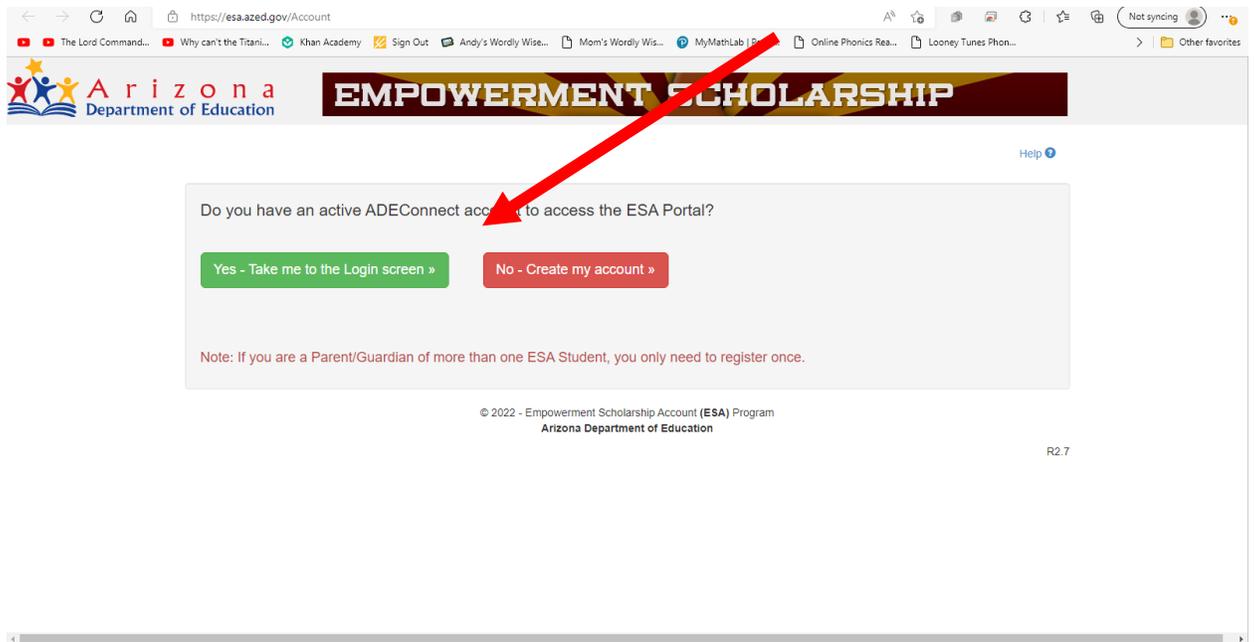3. **Sign your contract within 30 days** of receiving the link from ADE

For those applicants who meet the above criteria, Quarter 1 funding will be applied retroactively if and when Universal ESA takes effect. **Please note that retroactive Quarter 1 funding may take several months to complete because of the large number of applications** and the unknown date of potential effectiveness. In addition to working on retroactive Quarter 1 funding, ADE will also be working on timely Quarter 2 funding for all ESA students. **We appreciate your patience as we work through the process of potential retroactive funding.** This plan applies **only to those who are applying under the Universal ESA category** and the parameters are **solely for the provision of Quarter 1 funding.** Applicants that do not meet the three parameters may still participate in the program and receive funding in subsequent quarters once completed information is received and a contract is signed.

Other applicants **must sign their contract within the current quarter to receive funding for the quarter.** Thus, anyone who has applied under another category and is seeking Quarter 1 funding **must sign their contract by 9/30.** This is required because there is no retroactivity clause for any applicants other than Universal ESA applicants. As we receive updates, we will continue to post here. Link to H.B. 2853 is available here.
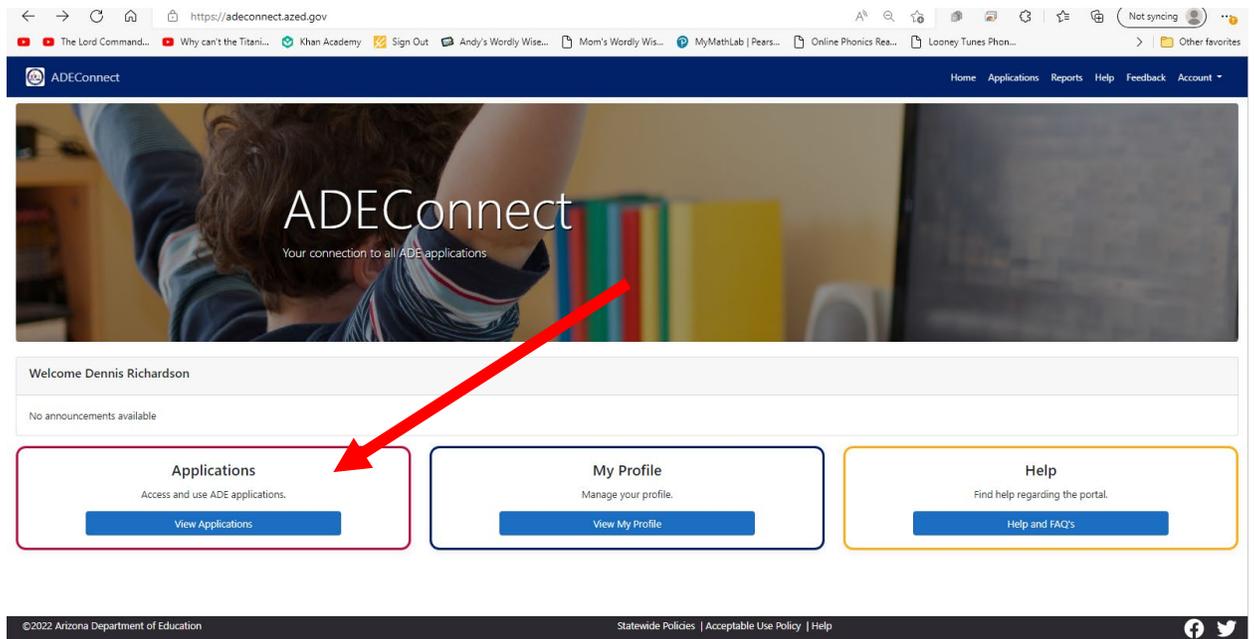
(Date updated: 9/27/22)

Apply Now

3. Create a login or sign into to your account.

4. Once logged in, agree to the acceptable use agreement.

5. Select Applications

6. Select ESA Applicant Portal

7. Select Create New Application

8. Select your Arizona Residency and press Continue

9. Select Universal for the type of eligibility and press continue

10. Select if your child has an IEP or 504 Plan and press continue

11. Obtain and upload the required documents and press continue. At minimum you will need a Birth Certificate and Proof of Residency, you may also need to provide a copy of your child's IEP or 504 Plan, if applicable.

12. Complete the application and press submit