

Meeting Date	May 25, 2023
Attendees	DESE: Darrell Smith, Missy Walley, Kayci Hardnett, Shastady Wagner Workgroup members: Tara Mendoza, Gary Arnold, John Spencer, Charisse Dean, Monica Daniels, Kristen Hargett, Misty Newcomb, Debbie Jones, Skipper Ward, Theresa Hall, Cindy Fong, Stephanie Nichols

Draft Rule/Policy Component	Work Group Feedback
Processes for allocation, disbursement of funds	<p>Attendees discussed the possibility of rollover funds. There will be no rollover funds in Year 1. Any remaining funds in Year 1 may be used for required eligible expenses. Funds can roll over beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.</p> <p>Workgroup members discussed what might happen if tuition exceeds the allotted amount of EFA funds. In this scenario, the family would be responsible for the tuition remainder.</p> <p>The group discussed tuition increases and any restrictions the private schools might face. Reasonable tuition increases will be unrestricted; however, the intent of the law is to prevent extreme tuition increases that are counterintuitive to the purpose of the EFA program. The group discussed safeguards or processes that might be implemented to prevent this.</p> <p>Workgroup members discussed the beginning-of-the-year costs that are typically higher than other periods of the year. The law does state that the funds will be paid in four quarterly installments. The group discussed the possibility of private schools planning for the beginning of the year or transitioning to a quarterly payment model to ensure all costs can be covered.</p>
Students with disabilities	<p>Much discussion was had around services for students with disabilities. Private schools are not required to administer services that public schools offer. It would be advisable for parents to understand which services are available through the private school of their choice and if those services will accommodate their child's needs.</p> <p>The IDEA Act was discussed regarding student eligibility for EFA. The group members discussed what type of documentation might be accepted and who would be qualified to provide that documentation. Parents must present one of the qualifying documents to be eligible for participation during the 23-24 school year: (1) IEP, (2) documentation of a tested diagnosis within the last three years, or (3) documentation from a qualified doctor of diagnosis.</p>
Communications	<p>Workgroup members offered several suggestions for media outreach and communications. All avenues of media are being discussed and explored. Digital town halls, social media pushes, and availability of information in location and language were all suggestions for informing every family in the state.</p> <p>The group also discussed processes for notification when a student enters or exits the EFA program. Public schools would benefit from timely notification of these transitions. It was suggested that perhaps a district report from ADE could be used for timely notification.</p>
Eligibility	Members discussed the necessary processes should the number of eligible students exceed the EFA program limit in years 1 and 2. These processes will be included in the

Notes

	<p>rules. Some possible options given were a lottery system or a “first come, first served” system for the first 80% and a lottery for the remaining 20%.</p> <p>The group discussed students who are currently enrolled in private schools. These students will be eligible but must meet eligibility requirements. It was noted here that being zoned for a D or F school is not a qualifying factor, rather having attended a D or F school the year prior.</p>
<p>Limits on EFA participation</p>	<p>The group also discussed the 1.5% cap on EFA program admission in Year 1. This will not be an even distribution by district, but rather an overall statewide cap of 1.5% participation in the EFA program.</p>
<p>Transitions</p>	<p>Rules and procedures for transition into or out of the EFA program will need to be in place. It was discussed that in the case of transition within the quarterly cycle, a prorated system could be used.</p>

<p>Notes</p>	<p>Consideration must be given to the notification process between ADE and public schools when a student enrolls or unenrolls from the EFA program.</p> <p>Private schools will most likely not need a designated staff member solely for the EFA program. This will be a local decision.</p> <p>The application window will differ from the Year 1 rollout window. For the 2023-2024 school year, the application window will be June 1-August 1. It is expected in the following years the window will be around February 1- May 1.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review guides when made available.