



# Education Savings Accounts

Department of Education

## Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget invests \$4 million in ongoing funding to establish Education Savings Accounts in South Dakota. The funding will initially provide approximately \$3,000 per student for families who meet eligibility requirements and wish to enroll their children in private schools or meet their education needs through alternative instruction. Allocation of the dollars would be determined by the parents within guidelines set in legislation and overseen by the South Dakota Department of Education.

## Use of Funds

Parents would determine how their funding would meet the needs of their children. Funds could pay tuition at a non-public school of their choosing. Families who choose alternative education could use the funding to purchase curriculum and classroom equipment.

Because this is a starting point, we must first provide this investment of approximately \$3,000 per student to South Dakota kids who need it most. The goal is to ultimately make these Education Savings Accounts available to every student in South Dakota.

## Program Rationale

Education savings accounts empower families and drive competition, a hallmark of American free markets. For the first time, many families in South Dakota will be firmly in the driver's seat making day-to-day educational decisions for their children. This will allow all educational opportunities to improve; we know from every form of economic and social life, competition makes us all better.



GOVERNOR  
KRISTI NOEM