



## **Arizona can't afford wide-spread expansion of ESAs**

- The costs are unsustainable.
- If every student attending a district public school was funded at an ESA level. it would cost the state an **additional 1 billion dollars.**
- Funding this massive expenditure would require raising taxes or dramatic cuts to K-12 public schools and other parts of the state's budget!

## **ESAs don't save the state money, they actually cost the state more.**

- The base level and DAA (District Additional Assistance) funding that public school districts receive is \$4,751 for each student in K-8 and \$5,219 in 9-12.
- Currently, every public school district in the state receives funding for this amount through local property taxes.
- No school district is 100 percent funded by the state, although 31 school districts (serving 45,127 total students) raise this complete amount through local property taxes.
- ESAs are funded 100 percent through the general fund.
- The average ESA provides an additional \$1,083 for K-8 students and \$1,285 for 9-12 students who leave district schools to take an ESA.
- There is currently a bill that proposes to expand access to ESAs to all 1.1 million students in 2020.
- If passed, and if every student enrolled in a public school district transitioned to an ESA, the cost to the state in current dollars would be about 1 billion.
- For these same reasons, even small expansions would have significant impact on the state's budget.
- Since the program was introduced in 2011, Arizona has spent \$99.7 million dollars funding ESAs.

**When Arizona parents choose a school, they are also choosing how much state funding they want their child to receive.**

- The majority of parents choose public district schools, and yet their choice receives less state funding per student than the other two choices funded by the state “charter schools and ESAs.”
- Are some choices worth less?