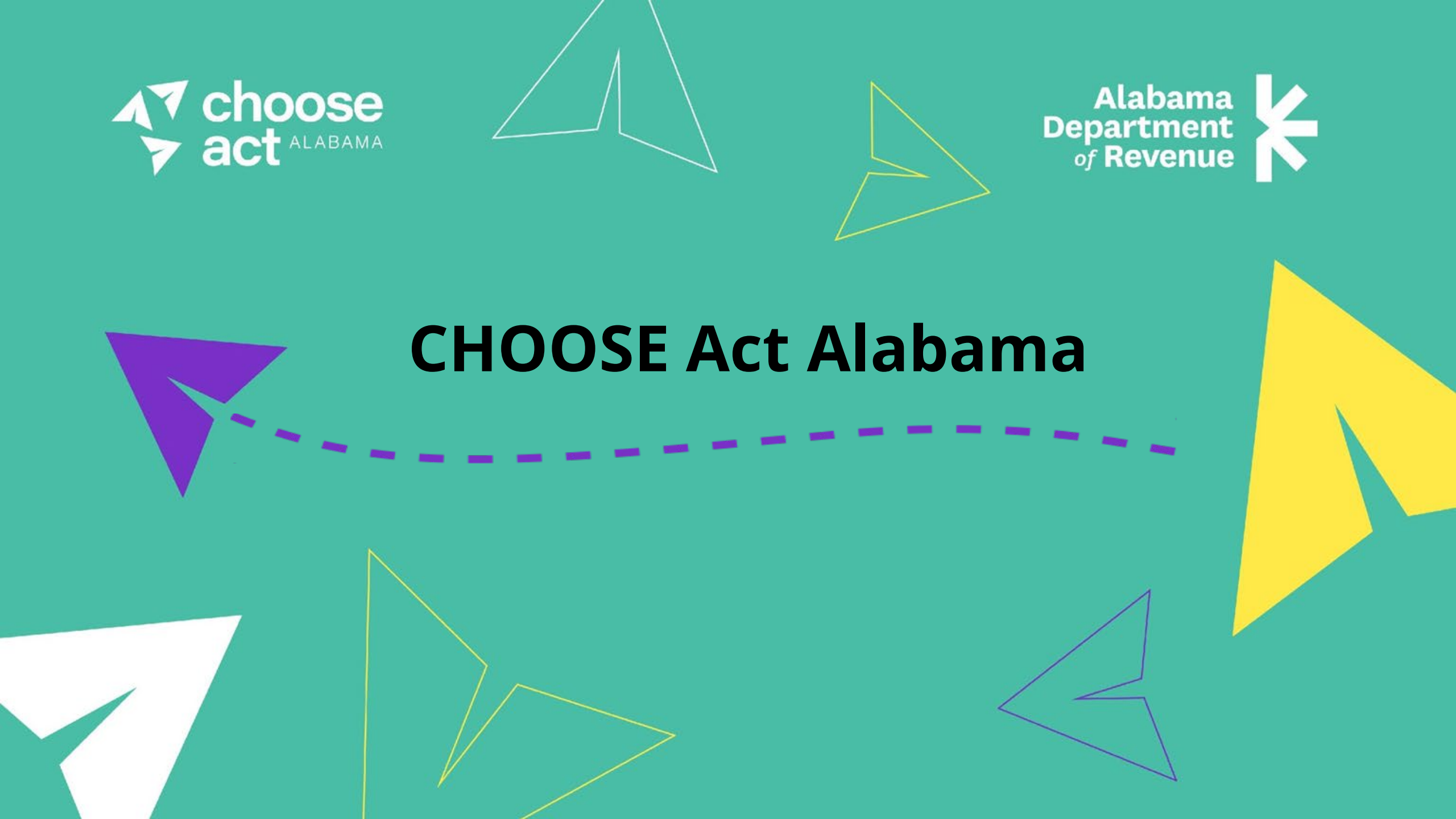




CHOOSE Act Alabama



Agenda

- Program Overview
- Annual Amounts
- Eligibility
- Family Application and How to Apply
- ClassWallet Digital Wallet
- Approved Expenses
- Education Service Providers
- Get Support
- Questions



Program Overview

- The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act of 2024 (CHOOSE Act Alabama) is administered by the Alabama Department of Revenue (ALDOR).
- CHOOSE Act Alabama makes refundable income tax credits called **education savings accounts (ESAs)** available to support the success of eligible K-12 students in Alabama.
- **An ESA can be used to pay for tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses at approved Education Service Providers (ESPs) in Alabama.**
- ALDOR has contracted with ClassWallet for programmatic support and to coordinate the distribution of funds to participating families.



Annual Amounts

- **\$7,000** per participating student who is enrolled in a participating school.
- **\$2,000** per participating student enrolled in a **home education program** (*this includes an individual or group program, homeschool, co-op, etc. and is capped at \$4,000 per family.*)
- Total award of **\$100 million** for the 2025-2026 school year.
- ESA funds will be distributed to families through a ClassWallet digital wallet starting in **July 2025**.



Eligibility

- To be eligible for the **2025-2026 school year**, the student must be in grades K-12. Kindergarten students must turn 5 by September 1, 2025.
 - Be a resident of Alabama
 - Have an **AGI or household income** that does not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level for the 2023-2024 tax year

Persons in Family/Household	300% of 2024 Federal Poverty Guideline
1	\$45,180
2	\$61,320
3	\$77,460
4	\$93,600
5	\$109,740
6	\$125,880
7	\$142,020
8	\$158,160
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$16,140 for each additional person.	



Eligibility Priorities

- First **500** ESAs are reserved for students with special needs.
 - Special-needs student: A student who qualifies for services under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
 - Documentation showing the student qualifies for services under IDEA or Section 504. Examples include 504 Plan, Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or Individualized Service Plan (ISP).
- Priority is given to **participating students and their siblings**, as well as students who are **dependents of active-duty service members** (enrolled in or assigned to a *priority school*).
- Priorities **ARE NOT** a requirement to receive funds. They simply place you in a higher award approval tier.



Family Application

- The application process is managed by FACTS and families can now apply online through the CHOOSE Act Alabama website at **chooseact.alabama.gov**.
- **The application will remain open until April 7, 2025**, or until funding is met. Award notifications will be sent to families **beginning on May 1, 2025**.
- Priorities are awarded first, with remainder awarded based on the percentage of the 300% federal poverty level.
 - *Example: Family of 4 with an AGI of \$70,000 will be awarded before a family of 4 with an AGI of \$80,000.*
- Families will have an opportunity to indicate what school (if any) the student will be attending during the application process.
- School enrollment will be verified prior to award.



Family Application (continued information)

To complete the application, you'll need:

- **Student Birth Certificate**
- **Proof of Alabama Residency** - Includes documentation that matches the physical address listed on the application. Examples include a recent tax return, state driver's license, state issued ID, utility bill, voter registration card, mortgage statement, rental or lease agreement.
- **Proof of Income** - Includes documentation such as the most recent federal or state tax return record, Form W-2 or 1099, Social Security statement, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits statement.





How Do I Apply?

What is The CHOOSE Act?

The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act of 2024 (The CHOOSE Act) is administered by the Alabama Department of Revenue (ALDOR).

CHOOSE Act Alabama makes refundable income tax credits called education savings accounts (ESAs) available to support the success of eligible K-12 students in Alabama.

An ESA can be used to pay for tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses at approved Education Service Providers (ESPs) in Alabama.

- ▶ **\$7,000 per participating student who is enrolled in a participating school.**
- ▶ **\$2,000 per participating student who is participating in a home education program** (maximum of \$4,000 per family.)

The application period is now open through April 7, 2025.

☆ Family Application - Apply Now

chooseact.alabama.gov

Apply Now or See If
Your Family Qualifies

Get Started

Learn More

Download the Parent Guide

Register for an upcoming
webinar

Parents

ESPs

Program FAQ



ClassWallet Digital Wallet

- Funds will be disbursed to approved families through a **ClassWallet digital wallet beginning in July 2025**. You will receive a Welcome Email with instructions on how to access your account and use your student's funds.
- How will I be able to use my student's funds?
 - Submitting a payment to an ESP (participating schools, tutors, therapists) through Direct Pay
 - ClassWallet Marketplace for purchases of educational materials, supplies, and technological aids
- **There is no reimbursement.** Families will pay school tuition, fees, other approved educational expenses through the ClassWallet platform.
- All transactions will be reviewed to ensure they abide with programmatic guidelines.



Approved Expenses

- ▶ Tuition and certain fees at participating schools
- ▶ Textbooks in approved subjects
- ▶ Fees for after-school or summer education programs provided by a participating school
- ▶ Curriculum, supplemental reading materials, and instructional materials
- ▶ Private Tutoring in approved subjects
- ▶ Tuition and fees for an approved nonpublic K-12 online learning programs
- ▶ Computers and technological aids
- ▶ Educational software and applications
- ▶ Educational services and therapies for students with disabilities (PT, OT, ABA, Vision, Dysgraphia/Dyslexia)
- ▶ Fees for standardized and nationally recognized assessments
- ▶ Contracted services provided by a public school district including specific classroom instruction

See Parent Guide for a full list of approved expenses!



Education Service Providers

- All Education Service Providers (ESPs), which includes Participating Schools, must be approved by ALDOR and agree to follow program rules and guidelines.
- A list of all ESPs is available to view on the CHOOSE Act Alabama website.
- **Program Website:**
<https://chooseact.alabama.gov/>
- The ESP application is **available** on the program website and will remain open throughout the year.

Participating Schools

All Education Service Providers





200+
Participating
Schools



47 e-Marketplace
Vendors



1 Exams and
Assessments



11 Online School
Options

Education Service Providers

(continued)



40 offering
Private Tutoring



9 providing
Educational
Therapies



31 Providing
Textbooks, Curriculum,
or Educational Items




24 Vendors
providing Online
Classes and
Courses



Get Support

ClassWallet is ready to help!

 **877-969-5536**

 **help@classwallet.com**

*Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. CT
Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT*

Program Website:

<https://chooseact.alabama.gov/>



Questions?

