

S 2455

Educational Freedom Accounts Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Jan 20, 2016

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jan 20, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2455>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT] | R · UT | | Feb 1, 2016 |
| Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA] | R · LA | | Feb 24, 2016 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jan 20, 2016 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 114 HR 4426 | Identical bill | Feb 2, 2016: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. |

Educational Freedom Accounts Act

This bill requires the District of Columbia to provide education savings accounts for children who are eligible to receive a free public education in the District, but whose parents choose not to enroll them in a public school or home schooling.

To receive an account, a child must be either entering kindergarten or prekindergarten or have been enrolled in a public school in the District during the previous year.

The Chief Financial Officer of the District must award a contract to a tax-exempt entity based in the District to administer the program.

The District must fund the accounts with amounts that are adjusted based on the family's income and range from 80% to 90% of the funds that the District of Columbia Public School System would otherwise spend on the child.

Upon the direction of a parent, the administering entity must distribute the funds for educational expenses, including:

- tuition at a nonpublic school or for distance education,
- tutoring,
- curricula or online courses,
- special education,
- individual courses or extracurricular activities at a public school within the District,
- dual credit courses that qualify for both secondary and postsecondary education credit,
- examinations,
- transportation to and from a provider,
- contributions to qualified tuition programs (529 plans) or Coverdell education savings accounts, or
- other educational expenses approved by the administering entity.

At the end of the contract period, any remaining balances must be returned to the District.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 20, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 20, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.