



# EDUCATION LAW CLIENT ALERT

OSBORN MALEDON

## ADE's New Requirements for ESA Tuition Payments

On June 4, 2024, the Arizona Department of Education's Empowerment Scholarship Account ("ESA") program sent a newsletter to parents informing them of changes to the use of ESA funds to pay school tuition. In the past, parents had the option of paying tuition out of pocket, then submitting their paid invoices for reimbursement from ESA. Starting July 1, 2024, parents cannot be reimbursed for tuition payments to schools. Instead, parents **must** pay tuition to schools directly through ClassWallet, the ESA financial management vendor. To make a tuition payment, parents must upload an invoice to the ClassWallet Pay Vendor platform and pay directly from the ESA account. The change also prevents parents from using an ESA-issued debit card to make tuition payments.

Thus, starting July 1, 2024, private schools must be a registered vendor on ClassWallet to receive ESA tuition funds. According to the ESA website, private schools may become a ClassWallet vendor by emailing [help@classwallet.com](mailto:help@classwallet.com).

The scope of this payment processing change is unclear—for example, we have heard that community colleges and some online curriculum providers are not affected by the change. ESA parents at schools not affected by the change may continue to submit tuition payments for reimbursement.

Please let us know if you have any questions relating to the tuition payment change. We will continue to update you as we learn more.

### Education Law



**Sarah P. Lawson**  
602-640-9359  
[Email](#)



**Lynne C. Adams**  
602-640-9348  
[Email](#)



**David D. Garner**  
602-640-9358  
[Email](#)



**Kristin L. Windtberg**  
602-640-9367  
[Email](#)



**Gloria D. Farrisi**  
602-640-9376  
[Email](#)

Osborn Maledon | 2929 N Central Ave | Phoenix, AZ 85012 US

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