

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2003
Version:	Introduced
Request Number:	6281
Author:	Rep. Nelson et al
Date:	2/13/2015
Impact:	Pending

Research Analysis

HB 2003 establishes a school voucher program to begin with the 2015-2016 school year. The measure establishes eligibility for the program. Enrollment in the program requires a signed agreement by the parent(s) of a student. The agreement includes several provisions including notifying the state department of education when an eligible student withdraws from a public school to participate in the program; the date the student stops participating; the date the student enrolls or reenrolls in a public school or graduates; signing a document that releases the resident school district from all obligations to educate the student; and how funds deposited into an education savings account (ESA) can and cannot be spent. Under the program, the ESA of a student must be renewed annually. The measure stipulates how the annual amount to be deposited into the ESA is to be calculated. Additionally, the measure creates a new fund, the Treasurer's Education Savings Account Administrative Fund, to cover the costs of administering the ESAs.

Under the program, a private school or educational service provider that receives funds from an ESA cannot share, refund, or rebate to the parent or student any of the funds from the account. Furthermore, parents cannot receive or accept rebates, discounts, or payments from private schools or educational service providers using funds from an account, unless they are deposited back into the account. In the event that an ESA is closed any remaining funds will be returned to the general revenue fund. Lastly, the State Board of Education must select an independent research organization to conduct a study of the program, and a report must be submitted to the State Department of Education annually and be published on its website.

Prepared By: Scott Tohlen

Fiscal Analysis

HB 2003, as introduced, creates the Oklahoma Education Savings Account Act and Program. Any costs/savings impacts are pending.

Prepared By: Andrea Kearney

Other Considerations

None

