

Overview of CHOOSE Act Sub

Academic Accountability

1. **Accreditation** – The sub would change the name of AdvancED to Cognia and add the Alabama Independent School Association and the Alabama Christian Education Association as authorized accreditors.
2. **Testing Transparency** – The sub would require participating schools to share student test scores directly with parents on annual basis. It would also require participating schools to report school-level assessment data to ADOR.

Protecting Military Families, Homeschoolers, U.S. Citizens, & In-State Schools

1. **Preferencing Military Dependents Zoned for Priority Schools** – The sub would grant enrollment preference during the initial two “uptake” years to the dependents of active-duty service members who are zoned to attend a priority school as defined under the Alabama Accountability Act. The sub would not disturb existing preferences for special-needs students, currently participating students and their siblings, or low-income families.
2. **Bona Fide Homeschoolers** – The sub would close a loophole to prevent students enrolled in a school *other than* a “participating school” from claiming the ESA value intended for homeschoolers. This is to ensure that only homeschoolers get the \$2,000 credit amount intended for them.
3. **Citizenship Requirement** – The sub would require participating students to be lawfully present in the United States.
4. **Limiting Participation to In-State Schools** – The sub would require all participating schools to be Alabama schools.

Fiscal Accountability

1. **Market-based growth option** – The current bill would provide that the Legislature must appropriate not less than \$100 million annually. The sub would establish a threshold for increasing the annual appropriation in future years if necessary to satisfy consumer demand. Specifically, appropriations could be increased in future fiscal years if the Revenue Commissioner certifies that increased appropriations are necessary as reflected by prior-year expenditure equaling 90 percent or more of available money in the CHOOSE Act fund.
2. **No accumulation of excess, unused funds** – The sub would prevent accumulation of excess unused funds by annually making any such funds in excess of \$500 million available for appropriation to other purposes.
3. **Periodic payment of tuition and fees** – The sub would require participating schools to accept tuition and other payments on a schedule to be determined by the Department of Revenue. This would prevent the State from spending ESA funds unnecessarily if a participating student withdraws during the school year.
4. **Cost Non-Discrimination** – The sub would prohibit education service providers from discriminating against participating students in setting tuition or fees.
5. **Proration Protection** – The sub would protect CHOOSE Act Program scholarships from being reduced due to proration.