



SB2 Review

SB 2 meets the minimum requirements of the bishops' criteria for supporting parental choice legislation because it includes 1) accountability through accreditation and the administration of a norm-referenced assessments, 2) strong religious liberty and private school autonomy protections, and 3) prioritization of the poor and vulnerable.

| Criteria | Explanation | Rating |
|--------------------------|---|--------|
| Eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of available positions for children in public school or entering pre-K or Kindergarten 20% of available positions for children in public, private, or home school entering pre-K or Kindergarten | |
| Prioritization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the number of applications to the program does not exceed the number of program spots available, all eligible applicants will be accepted into the program. If the number of applications exceeds the number of program spots available, acceptance into the program will be determined by lottery as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of available ESA reserved for students who have previously attended public school; and either are a member of a low-income household* or have a disability. 20% of ESAs available for all other students | |
| ESA amount | <p>All students accepted into the ESA program are annually credited a minimum of \$2,000 to their Education Savings Account.</p> <p>However, if a family participating in the ESA program chooses to enroll their participating child in an accredited private school, that student's account is annually credited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$11,500 for a child with a disability - \$10,000 for a child without a disability | |
| Testing | Norm-referenced exams are required for private school students. | |
| Religious Liberty | Strong religious liberty language ensures broad participation by diverse private schools. | |
| Accreditation | Recommend all participating schools be accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or Texas Education Agency, reverting to language used in previous Senate bills in the past 15 years. | |

*For a family of four, the federal poverty level is \$32,150; 400% = \$160,750

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

To recognize the sacrifices of low-income families with students currently in private schools, the eligibility criteria could be improved by offering 10% of available positions to those already enrolled in private or home school who are low-income, and the remaining 10% for all students.



Jennifer Carr Allmon
jennifer@txcatholic.org

Shannon Jaquette
shannon@txcatholic.org

512-339-9882
txcatholic.org