



HB3 Review



HB3 meets all the 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"> No requirement for prior public school attendance Siblings are given the same eligibility as any sibling in the program 	
Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority is for students who are disabled and the family must be under 500% of the federal poverty level. If the number of applicants in the first category does not exceed the number of program spots available, priority will be to students of families under 200% of the federal poverty level. If the number of applicants in the first and second categories does not exceed the number of program spots available, priority will be to applicants whose families are at 500% of the federal poverty level. After all applicants in the above three categories are accepted, all remaining applicants will be accepted. 	
ESA amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students accepted into the ESA program are annually credited 85% of the average for statewide funding (approximately \$10,000) to their Education Savings Account. Students with disabilities receive up to \$30,000, in alignment with funding provided for them in public schools. Home school students are limited to no more than \$2,000 per year. No rollover limit 	
Testing	Norm-referenced exams are required for private school students.	
Religious Liberty	Strong religious liberty language ensures broad participation by diverse private schools.	
Accreditation	All participating schools be accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or Texas Education Agency	

*For a family of four, the federal poverty level is \$32,150; 200% = \$64,300; 500% = \$160,750

