

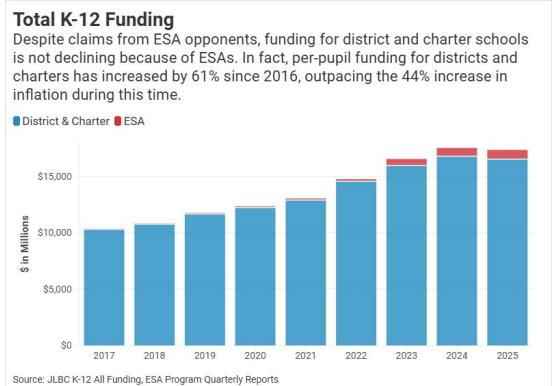
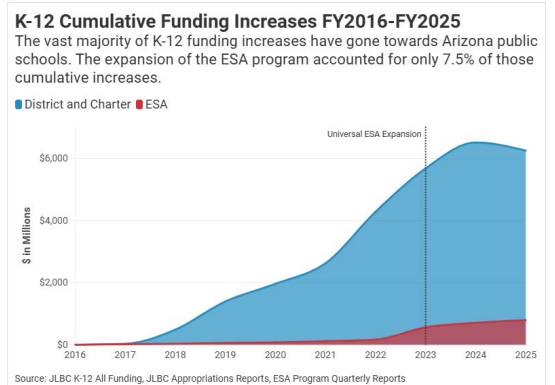
Fiction

Policymakers are cutting Public Education to Pay for the ESA Program

"Has that per pupil spending increased measurably for the public or charter schools at the same time that the universal school vouchers were put into place?...But yes, no that funding for public schools has not increased." [i]

Key Facts

- **K-12 Funding is up 60%:** Between FY 2016 and FY 2025, public K-12 funding in Arizona has increased more than \$6.3 billion.[ii] ESA funding has increased just \$792 million over this period; just 11% of all new K-12 funding has gone to the ESA program.
- **\$15,100:** Arizona today spends more money per-pupil in public school than it ever has: over \$15,000. Even after accounting for the runaway inflation of the past two years, inflation-adjusted spending per student is up 30% since FY2016.
- **-23,500:** Over the past five years enrollment in Arizona public schools has fallen by more than 23,000 students. Funding – total and per-pupil – has continued going up, though. Today policymakers are allocating more money to educate fewer public-school students.
- Had public school funding in Arizona grown only at the rate of enrollment and population since 2016, total funding today would be 21% less than it is – **for an annual savings of over \$3.5 billion.**



B O T T O M L I N E

Arizona's public school funding investment has grossly exceeded inflation, enrollment growth, and ESA funding. While it is true that relative rankings do not show much change in Arizona's national position, this is because every state has been increasing public school funding in recent years – while at the same time seeing enrollment declines. These two facts are inflating every state's per-pupil-funding numbers simultaneously, fixing their relative positions.