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Senate To Vote on SB 2 Voucher/Educational Savings Account Bill Wednesday

The Texas Senate is expected to vote on SB 2 this Wednesday after it passed out of The Senate Education Committee last week on a 9-2 vote. The two Democratic Senators on the committee, Sen. Royce West Senator Jose Menendez voted against the bill.

SB 2 allows every Texas student to apply for an Education Savings Account (ESA), whether in public school, private school, or homeschool. SB 2 has procedures if the cost capacity is exceeded, then a lottery will be implemented for 80% of the applying students who were enrolled in public school the prior year and have a disability or have a household income at or below 500% of the federal poverty line. If the applications do not exceed the program's cost capacity, then all students are accepted. Each participating student will receive at least $2,000, or if a family elects to enroll their student in a private school, the student will receive $10,000 ($11,500 if the student has a disability).

The cost of the ESA program is $1 billion in 2027, but according to some estimates it could grow to **$3.2 billion** in 2028, **$3.8 billion** in 2029, and **$4.6 billion** in 2030.

SB 2 does require that participating students take some form of academic assessment but does not require the STAAR test to be taken.

The Texas Senate has passed voucher legislation numerous times and is expected to do so again on Wednesday. Texas school districts are facing significant financial challenges, and SB 2 does nothing to address those needs. Contact your Senator and voice your opposition to SB 2 and express that meaningful funding increases for all public-school students should be the first priority before approving costly private school subsidies.