



## **Facts show ESAs help students, families**

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February 17, 2016

A recent study by the Cato Institute reaffirms the usefulness of Education Savings Accounts, not just for low-income students but for all students.

ESAs are restricted-use bank accounts that parents can use for a variety of education purposes. Lindsey Burke, education analyst with [The Heritage Foundation](#), has long extolled the virtues of ESAs because they help low-income and middle-income families afford educational alternatives.

“ESAs enable families to do much more than just the very worthwhile exercise of choosing among schools, but also give them the ability to choose among private tutors and education therapists and services, and even purchase textbooks and curricula,” she explains.

Only five states currently use ESAs. But Burke says considering when they first emerged, that is astonishing.

“Considering that the first ESA option was only introduced in 2011, and now by 2015, we have five states doing it - one being a near universal program in Nevada - that really says a lot I think about how exciting these programs are,” she says.

The Nevada program is currently being sued by opponents who say the funding is unconstitutional. Opponents filed - and lost - similar suits in both Arizona and Florida.