

Exhibit A

The Purchase Attempt & Denial

Description: The purchase attempt and agency denial that triggered the dispute.

Exhibit A1

Root Cause Denial Notice

March 6, 2025

Description: March 6, 2025 denial rejecting an otherwise allowable purchase without legal authority.



Order Rejected

ClassWallet Team <help@classwallet.com>
Reply-To: zkari.thomas@azed.gov
To: [Redacted]

Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 1:25 PM

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CLASSWALLET

Order Rejected

Zkari Thomas has rejected your order for the following reason:

“Unfortunately, pursuant to ARS 15-2402, the following item(s) is disallowed and may not be purchased with ESA funds: Disallowed Item(s): Spirit CRW800 Rower, 94 x 18 x 38 Inches The Department has made a final administrative decision to disallow this item. You may choose to appeal the decision to the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE) pursuant to A.R.S § 15-2403(D). Website: <https://azsbe.az.gov/parents/empowerment-scholarship-account-esa-program> All other items in this order (if needed) can be resubmitted in a new ClassWallet order for approval. ”

Please respond by sending an email to your admin zkari.thomas@azed.gov.

Funds have been moved back into your account and are available for future purposes.

Order Details

Order No:	[Redacted]	User Name:	[Redacted]
Date:	3-3-2025	Address:	[Redacted]
Title:	School Specialty Order	City:	[Redacted]
Vendor:	School Specialty	State:	AZ

Zip:



Item Summary

Description	Price	Qty	Subtotal	Allowable?
Champion Sports Plastic Softball Set, 6-Color, Set of 6	\$7.49	1	\$7.49	Allowed
Champion Sports Plastic Softball Set, White, Set of 12	\$14.32	1	\$14.32	Allowed
Flagship Carpets Stayput Throw Down Base Set	\$33.82	1	\$33.82	Allowed
Spirit CRW800 Rower, 94 x 18 x 38 Inches	\$1,998.97	1	\$1,998.97	Not Allowed

Sub Total: \$2,054.60**Shipping:** \$411.74**Tax:** \$172.65**Total:** \$2,638.99

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Exhibit A2

Email to Purchase Specialist (Zakari Thomas)

March 7, 2025

Description: Early written challenge requesting statutory and handbook authority before escalation.



ESA Appeal & Immediate Response Required– Unjust Rejection of Pre-Approved Physical Education Equipment

LodgeWell Publishing <[REDACTED]>
To: zkari.thomas@azed.gov
Cc: christine.accurso@azed.gov, inbox@azsbe.az.gov

Fri, Mar 7, 2025 at 6:02 PM

Dear Ms. Thomas,

I am writing to formally **dispute the unjust rejection** of my ESA-approved purchase for the **Spirit CRW800 Rower**. This decision is **completely unacceptable, lacks transparency, and contradicts the ESA's own pre-approved physical education equipment list**.

Let's be clear:

- ✓ **This equipment is for physical education, which is an approved category under ESA guidelines.**
- ✓ **It was already listed as pre-approved for ESA purchases, meaning there is no legitimate reason for its rejection.**
- ✓ **The response I received provided no real explanation, only a vague reference to an "executive decision." That is not a valid justification and suggests an arbitrary attempt to prevent families from purchasing higher-value items. Furthermore, the statement that "The Department has made a final administrative decision to disallow this item" is not a valid reason for rejecting exercise equipment that meets ESA-approved criteria. If this is the only justification, then this rejection is baseless and must be reversed.**

This type of **selective and inconsistent enforcement** is a serious issue, and I am **not letting it slide**. As of today, I have **officially filed an appeal with the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE)** regarding this matter, and I have CC'd you on that email as well.

I expect a **clear and detailed response** outlining the specific policy that justifies this rejection. **If no valid justification exists, then I demand immediate approval of this purchase.**

I will keep relevant ESA oversight officials informed and, if necessary, will escalate this matter as high as needed to ensure ESA families receive fair and consistent treatment.

Please confirm receipt of my emails. I look forward to your prompt response and corrective action.

Best regards,

Guy Lodge

ESA Account ID: [REDACTED]

Exhibit A3

Escalation Email to Ward

March 8, 2025

Description: Internal escalation after denial, before appeal.



ESA Appeal – Unjust Rejection of Pre-Approved Equipment

LodgeWell Publishing 

Sat, Mar 8, 2025 at 9:52 AM

To: john.ward@azed.gov

Cc: zkari.thomas@azed.gov, superintendent@azed.gov, engage@az.gov

Dear Mr. Ward,

I am reaching out to ensure you are aware of a **formal appeal I submitted today** regarding the **unjust rejection** of my ESA purchase for the **Spirit CRW800 Rower**. This item was **listed as pre-approved for physical education** and yet was arbitrarily disallowed **without any valid justification**.

The response I received **provided no real explanation**, only a vague reference to an **“executive decision.”** That is **not a valid justification** and suggests an **arbitrary attempt to prevent families from purchasing higher-value items**. Furthermore, the statement that **“The Department has made a final administrative decision to disallow this item”** is **not a valid reason** for rejecting **exercise equipment that meets ESA-approved criteria**. If this is the **only justification**, then this rejection is **baseless and must be reversed**.

This rejection contradicts ESA policies, lacks transparency, and raises concerns about **inconsistent enforcement** of allowable purchases. As detailed in my attached appeal, I am requesting:

- ✓ **Immediate approval** of my ESA purchase
- ✓ **A clear, written explanation** citing the specific policy justifying this rejection
- ✓ **A commitment to transparency** to prevent arbitrary ESA denials in the future

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Best regards,
Guy Lodge

✉ ESA Account ID: 