



School Choice Fact Sheet

NEW DEFINITION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

We will *invest* public tax dollars in the **child** rather than in a school system.

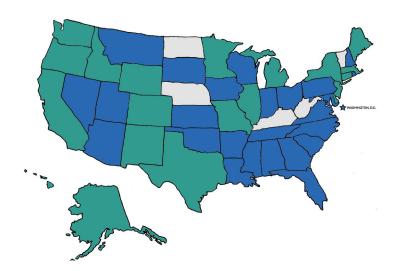
Parents will determine their child's educational path rather than the school system.

NATIONAL SNAPSHOT

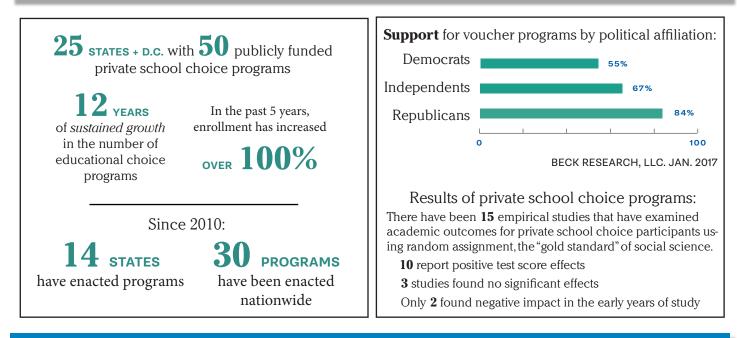
States with Private School Choice Programs

States with Public Charter Schools and No Private School Choice Program

States with No Private School Choice or Charter Schools



BY THE NUMBERS



MOVING TOWARD A HIGH QUALITY 21ST CENTURY K-12 SYSTEM

Choice and innovation will improve educational outcomes for all children.

Parents, not ZIP codes or family income, will determine the best educational environment for their children.

Children are able to receive a customized education tailored to their unique needs.

AMERICAN FEDERATION *for* Children



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TYPES OF PROGRAMS

EDUCATION SAVINGS

Education savings account programs (ESAs) give parents the power to use their child's state education dollars on approved education expenses including tuition and fees, textbooks and tutoring. Families receive funds in an account and are able to customize education to their child's specific needs. Five states currently have ESA programs.

VOUCHER PROGRAMS

Voucher programs allow education dollars to "follow the child," giving parents the opportunity choose a private school for their child and receive a state-funded scholarship to pay tuition. Thirteen states in addition to Washington, D.C. have a school voucher program.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public schools run by educators, members of the community or other bodies, using innovative and specialized education programs.

COURSE CHOICE

Course choice, also known as course access, allows K-12 students to enroll in individual course options, from both public and private providers, using state funds. Many courses are available online, but some are offered in traditional or blended learning formats.

SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

Scholarship tax credit programs give families greater access to private schools by providing scholarships. The state creates tax credit incentives for businesses and individuals to donate to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to students. Currently 17 states have a scholarship tax credit program.

PARENTAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Individual state income tax credits of a significant size are used for a child's education expenses, including private school tuition, and can assist families access educational options they otherwise could not afford. Two states have a parental tax credit program.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

Public school choice, or open enrollment, allows students attending poor-peforming public schools to attend a higher-performing public school inside or outside of their assigned school district.

VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

Virtual, or online education, allows students to take one or all school courses online, allowing for more flexibility and options in education.