

PROGRESS AND RESULTS

AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
2020 IMPACT REPORT



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Dear Friends,

In 2020, the American Federation for Children (AFC) and our affiliated political organizations once again made significant investments to defend and expand educational choice majorities in the states. Our elections work paves the way for enactment of legislation to directly empower families through new school choice programs or expanding existing programs. While many legislative sessions were disrupted or forced to alter priorities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AFC continued to push hard in the states and at the federal level on behalf of families and students in desperate need of greater flexibility and choice.

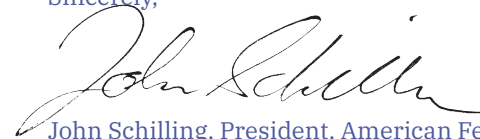
In this most unprecedented and unpredictable year, AFC quickly became a leader in COVID-19-related response to school shutdowns. We led a nationwide advocacy effort to ensure all children and families, whether in public or private schools, were provided for in federal, state and local COVID-19 relief. We also lobbied governors across the nation to use their discretionary relief funds to support all schools, as well as families with their children's at-home learning.

Electing pro-educational choice state policymakers is crucial to passing high-quality legislation. The families who benefit from choice programs are up against powerful and entrenched special interests, including the teachers' unions. While impossible to match these special interests dollar for dollar, AFC, AFC Action Fund, its state political committees and allies participated in nearly 400 strategically chosen and competitive races in the states. This year, we won 85% of those races.

Our goal for every election year is simple: defend and expand educational choice legislative majorities across the country. After the elections are over, we move quickly to work with state policymakers to enact bold legislation that will expand educational choice, create educational opportunity, and ultimately improve educational outcomes for America's students.

AFC's legislative efforts in 2020, combined with swift and succinct reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritized opportunity for all children now and into the future. Our election efforts helped elevate the voices of parents across the country about providing all educational options for families. Whether it's a public school, private school, charter school, virtual academy, home school or a blend of these choices—every family, especially lower income families, deserves the freedom to choose the best educational environment for their child.

Sincerely,



John Schilling, President, American Federation for Children

2020 Election Results

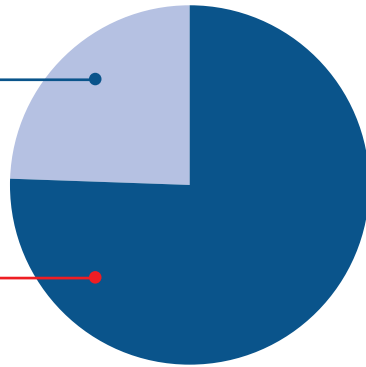
PRIMARY ELECTION

LOSSES

23.3%

WINS

75.7%



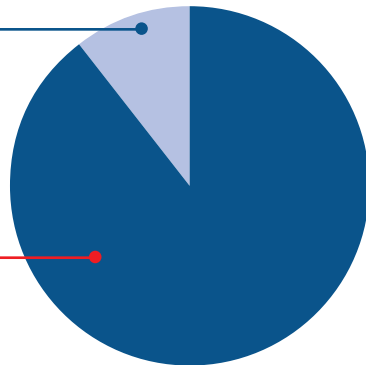
GENERAL ELECTION

LOSSES

10.4%

WINS

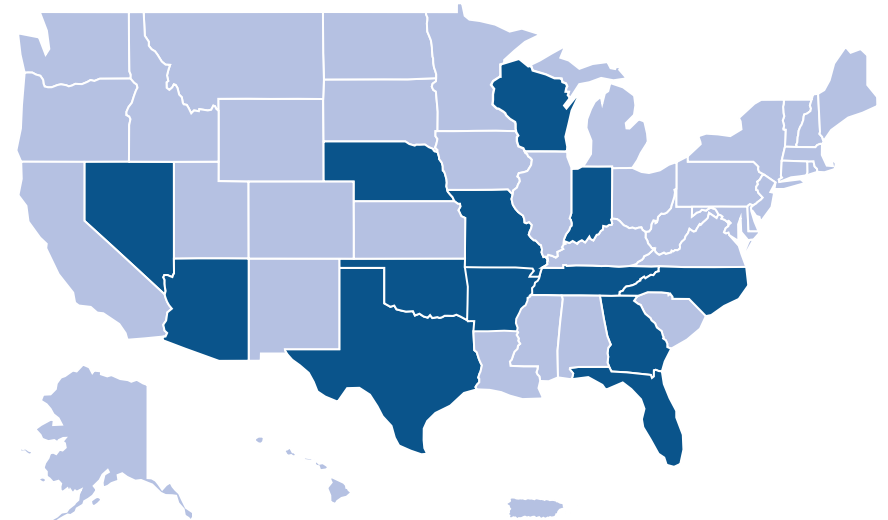
89.6%



Total Races in 2020:

396 races, **336 wins**

AFC, AFC Action Fund, its affiliated state political committees and state allies engaged in a combined 13 states.



AR, AZ, FL, GA, IN, MO, NE, NV, NC, OK, TN, TX, WI



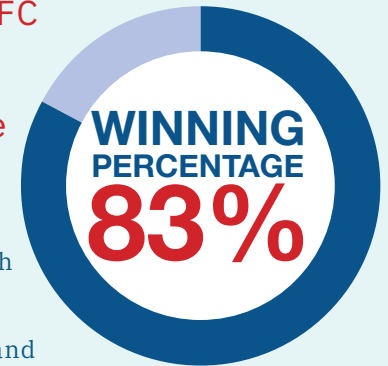
Arizona

In dramatic fashion, AFC achieved an important legislative victory the day before COVID-19 shut down the capitol, when Arizona Legislators approved a bill that made vital improvements to the state's Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program. Senate Bill 1224 allows families more flexibility to better spend their scholarship funds, gives Navajo families additional options to choose a school out of state, and provides tremendous support staff and assistance to ESA families, all while moving oversight of the ESA program from the State Superintendent to the Arizona State Board of Education.

AFC also launched its first ever Black Pastor Network, led by two former NFL players. The Network bolsters access to dozens of community churches and parishioners and supports efforts to boost implementation and school choice advocacy. Additionally, we partnered with social media basketball stars to sponsor slam dunk events and engage families about their school choice options.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

In the 2020 elections, AFC achieved what many thought impossible: retaining a school choice majority in the state Legislature.

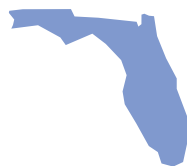


Despite being outspent by as much as 15-1 in some races, AFC's strategic planning and targeted investments in both the Primary and General elections helped school choice candidates win, and was key to keeping control of the Legislature. Looking toward the 2021 legislative session, our successful electoral efforts will allow AFC to explore expansion of the ESA program, along with several other needed school choice improvements. If successful, this will undoubtedly help hundreds of thousands of additional families receive the education that is best for their children.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Joel John (state House): As a new candidate who had never previously run for office, Republican Joel John was in the political fight for his life as a candidate for the state House against two anti-school choice incumbents. Even though he was in a more difficult Democratic-leaning district, Joel provided the shock of the election by winning the seat with significant help from AFC. Joel's victory in the race allowed a school choice majority in the Legislature to continue.



Florida

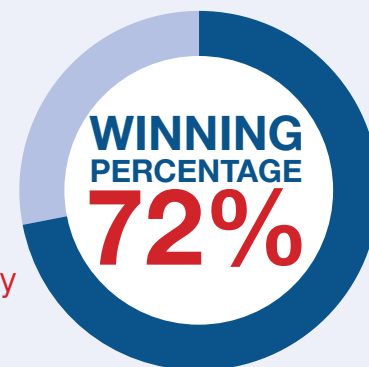
Florida's legislative session saw major advances to the state's school choice programs. In March, a bipartisan majority of legislators approved a bill aligning the income requirement of the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) with the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) program. This will ultimately allow students to continue on their scholarships in future years regardless of income.

The bill also increased annual enrollment growth of the FES program from 0.25% to 1% of the public school enrollment each year, which results in approximately 28,000 more slots available in the 2020-21 school year. A new provision of the FTC program also allows unfunded students to receive support from the FES program if funding is available.

Finally, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis led the nation in allocating GEER funds to private schools through stabilization grants that help address financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 700 private schools were awarded \$15 million from CARES Act funding, assisting thousands of families to stay in the school of their choice.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

AFC Action Fund's state affiliated political committee, Florida Federation for Children (FFC) PAC, supported a number of pro-school choice state legislative candidates in the Primary and General elections.



The pro-school choice message resonated with voters and, while seen as very tight races, resulted in major victories for FFC PAC-supported candidates. These victories included flipping one Senate seat and five House seats, leading to a near supermajority of pro-school choice members in the House and a comfortable majority in the Senate.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Tom Fabricio beat an outspoken anti-school choice House incumbent in a Democratic-leaning district by eight points in the General Election. Tom personally knocked on over 20,000 doors, directly communicating his pro-jobs, economic recovery and school choice message with voters. Outside groups spent an unprecedented

\$1 million in an effort to re-elect the incumbent, but newly elected Representative Fabricio's door-to-door effort and a message that resonated with voters helped him overcome this money disadvantage.

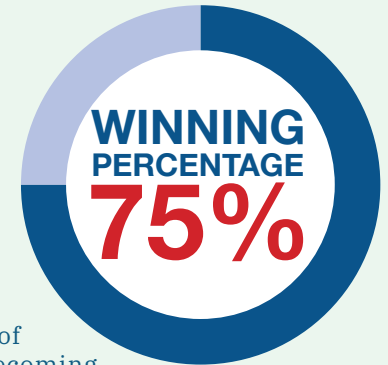
Georgia



AFC was successful in passing legislation through the Georgia Senate to improve and expand the state's 13-year-old Special Needs Scholarship program. Unfortunately, shortly after passage in the Senate, the Legislature shut down due to COVID-19. While the Legislature briefly returned over the summer, the bill was not debated further. Since the state was in the second year of a biennial session, this and other school choice efforts will begin anew in 2021.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

AFC Action Fund's state affiliated political committee, the Georgia Legislative Independent Committee, invested in 16 legislative races during the Primary and General elections.



Overall, we were successful in 12 of those 16 races. Despite Georgia becoming a sudden "battleground" state in the Presidential contest, we were able to return all but one school choice supporter to the Legislature and narrowly missed unseating a few anti-school choice incumbents.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Mesha Mainor (D) HD 56: In an open three-way Democratic Primary, AFC's Georgia Independent Committee was able to elect school choice supporter Mesha Mainor without a runoff. Mainor will now hold a seat previously held by a school choice opponent in the heart of Atlanta.

AFC's Georgia Independent Committee also successfully defended Rep. Heath Clark (R) in HD 147 despite early and absentee voting appearing to strongly favor his opponent. Ultimately, Clark won by 1,021 votes, no doubt in part because of AFC's investment.



Indiana

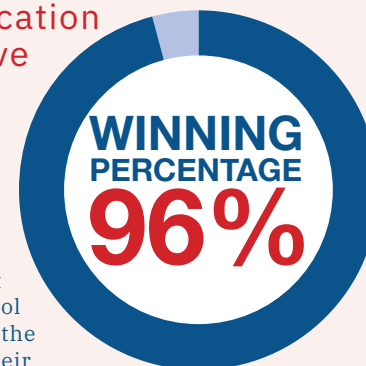


The Governor and legislative leadership in both the House and Senate prioritized several education bills prior to the start of the 2020 session in response to low statewide assessment scores. Unfortunately, an anti-reform, “Red for Ed” rally in the fall helped set the stage for the fast-tracking of bills that dismantled school accountability and educator evaluation policies that were originally passed during the 2011 reforms. AFC’s state ally, Hoosiers for Quality Education, was unsuccessful in attempts to defeat and make improvements to these teachers’ union-endorsed policy shifts.

While we are disappointed that many of the 2020 education policy discussions focused on adults and politics instead of advancing policies that prioritize Hoosier students, we did have some legislative wins this year. AFC’s state ally, Hoosiers for Quality Education, successfully defended numerous attacks on school choice policies and programs and began important conversations about choice expansion in future sessions. Additionally, a meaningful school deregulation bill became law and the state accreditation system was improved, ensuring private schools can continue serving voucher students.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

Hoosiers for Quality Education (HQE) PAC was very active in the 2020 General Election, with a focus on state legislative races.



Only one incumbent House member that HQE supported heavily was defeated. All-in-all it was a great night for HQE PAC and for the future of school choice in Indiana. The Republicans in the House of Representatives expanded their supermajority to 71-29, a net four pick-up. The Indiana Senate results were as expected, with Republicans losing one seat (a candidate that HQE PAC did not support) and their supermajority is now 39-11. HQE PAC also supported the re-election of school choice supporters Governor Holcomb and Lieutenant Governor Crouch, who won with a record number of votes. The stage is set for meaningful expansion of private school choice in the 2021 legislative session.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Todd Huston was re-elected to represent House District 37. Todd was elected mid-session in 2020 to succeed Brain Bosma as Speaker of the House and was recently re-elected to the Speaker position. Speaker Huston, who served on his local school board and the Indiana State Board of Education and served as Superintendent Bennett’s Chief of Staff, is a true believer in school choice and will be the legislative champion as we work to give more Hoosier students and families access to expanded educational options.

State Senator Jack Sandlin won his re-election bid in a hard-fought battle against a stated anti-school choice candidate. HQE PAC was pleased to support Senator Sandlin, who has been a member of a small group of legislators that have been working together for the last 18 months to focus on the future of K-12 education in Indiana. Both Speaker Huston and Senator Sandlin’s opponents were supported by the Indiana State Teachers Association, who poured roughly \$1 million into state legislative races in an effort to “elect candidates who support public education and will stop the privatization of our K-12 system.” Although the ISTA invested heavily in numerous races, they were successful in only one.





Iowa

AFC's local ally, the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education (ACE), succeeded in improving the state's \$15 million scholarship tax credit program that serves nearly 12,500 students by adding an automatic increase in future years. Beginning in 2021, if Student Tuition Organizations (STOs) receive contributions totaling 90% or more of the \$15 million cap, there will be automatic 10% increases in the contribution cap the following year, ultimately allowing STOs to serve more Iowa families.

In addition, Iowa ACE convinced the Legislature to make it easier for more businesses to contribute to the scholarship tax credit program. Previously, corporations could only contribute a maximum of 25% of the total cap, but now both corporations and individuals can contribute without restrictions up until the total cap is met.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

Though AFC did not invest in the elections in Iowa, local school choice advocates did, resulting in a larger school choice majority in the state House and a strong school choice majority in the state Senate.



Louisiana

The Louisiana Federation for Children (LFC), a project of the American Federation for Children, had three successful legislative sessions in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. LFC secured a line-item appropriation of \$42 million in the state budget to fully fund potentially 7,500 students in the Louisiana Scholarship Program for the 2020-21 school year.

For the third year in a row, no harmful bills were filed against the Louisiana Scholarship Program or the tax credit scholarship program. Unfortunately, a plethora of anti-charter bills are still being filed on an annual basis, but due to LFC's influence in the state House, all harmful charter bills were defeated in the House or Senate Education Committees.

Finally, House Bill 20 passed during the Second Special Session, allowing a tax deduction of up to \$5,000 for families spending money on learning pods in 2020. New legislation was also introduced that would have expanded public school choice options for families. House Bill 42 by Representative Mark Wright allowed for a parent appeals process if the local school board denied a student's transfer from a D- or F-rated public school to an A-, B- or C-rated public school inside or outside the district. The legislation also required local school boards to define capacity at the local level to determine whether or not there are seats available at the available schools for transferring students. This legislation passed the House overwhelmingly, only to run out of time on the Senate floor.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

In 2019, every statewide, state legislative, and state school board seat in Louisiana was on the ballot for the first time in four years. Given this important opportunity, AFC's affiliated state PACs raised approximately \$3.7 million for the electoral effort from several national and local donors.

This large electoral budget allowed the team to engage in 33 races, including legislative and State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) races. The team won 29 out of 33 races for an 88% win rate. As a result of the success in 2019, LFC has been extremely successful passing legislation and fully funding the LA Scholarship Program at the state Legislature.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Aimee Freeman is a Democrat from New Orleans who strongly supports school choice in Louisiana. She entered the House District 98 race with six opponents and made it into the runoff with 38% of the vote. Ultimately, Aimee was successful in getting 58% of the vote in the November General Election. She currently serves on the House Education Committee and has been a major education champion.



Missouri

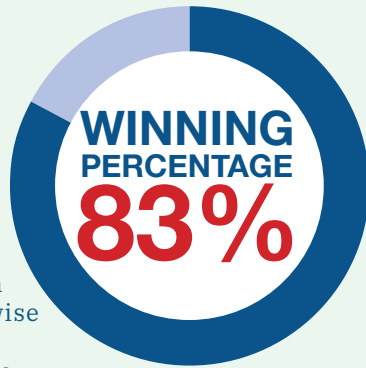
ELECTION SNAPSHOT

In 2020, AFC and our education reform allies were among the largest investors in Republican legislative races.

While organizations like AFC are not permitted under Missouri law to make contributions to campaign or candidate committees or otherwise designate contributions for any particular candidate, AFC can make contributions to PACs. In the Primary Election, candidates supported by school choice-friendly PACs won eight of the 13 races invested in.

In the General Election, we contributed to local committees supportive of the Republican leadership to protect and expand our school choice legislative coalition. With our backing, they helped re-elect our Senate champion and the supportive Senate leader, who both faced stiff challenges. In the House, pro-school choice candidates won every race our local allies invested in except one. Our local allies also made independent expenditures in support of Governor Parson, Attorney General Schmitt and State Treasurer Fitzpatrick, who all won re-election.

We are hopeful that, with a strengthened school choice coalition in the Legislature, 2021 will be the year we pass the state's first private school choice program, further expand charter schools, and eliminate the ability of school districts to veto a family's request for virtual education from the Missouri Course Access Program.



2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Our Senate champion and the author of our Education Savings Account legislation, Andrew Koenig, was the most endangered incumbent in the Missouri Senate. Koenig is a citizen legislator, who spends most of the year visiting people at their homes in his role as an insurance claims adjuster. In his race for re-election, Senator Koenig faced a tsunami of negative ads, including over \$1 million worth by one group alone. At no point in the race did a poll show him ahead. Undaunted, he worked

the district hard, visiting thousands of voters at their homes. On election night they rewarded him with a surprising 54% victory.

Nebraska

This year, Invest in Kids Nebraska, a project of the American Federation for Children, hosted several events to raise awareness about and support for school choice while also providing support for tax credit scholarship legislation.

While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the legislative session and ultimately prevented debate on school choice legislation, we worked closely with our in-state allies to advocate for private school families during school closures. We also worked with the Governor's office to make sure private school students are included in current and future COVID-19 relief through GEER funding in the CARES Act.



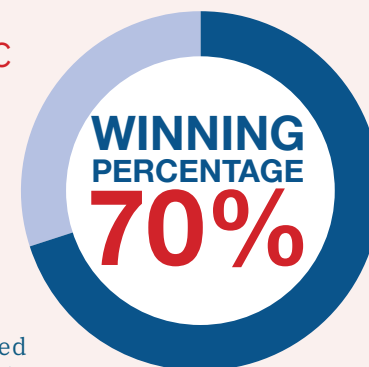
ELECTION SNAPSHOT

In 2020, AFC worked to form a school choice PAC in Nebraska, the Nebraska Federation for Children (NFC) PAC.

In its first year, NFC PAC raised more than \$250,000 and invested in 10 key legislative races.

School choice candidates supported by NFC PAC and its allies prevailed in 70% of races.

In the Unicameral Legislature, every vote counts. As a result of the 2020 General Election, school choice proponents gained critical seats that will be necessary to overcome likely filibusters to school choice legislation.



2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Rita Sanders was elected to her first term in the Nebraska Legislature, replacing an opponent to school choice who was term limited.

Sanders defeated her opponent in the General Election, despite falling short against the same candidate in the Primary, and despite more than \$100,000 spent by union-backed political groups working to defeat Sanders.

As the mother of a child with unique learning differences, Sanders understands that not every school is the right fit for every child.

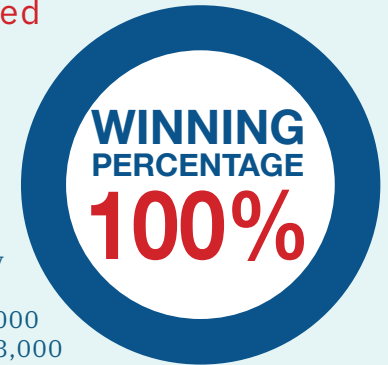
Nevada

2020 was an off year for the Nevada Legislature, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada was forced to hold a special session to address budget deficits. The Nevada School Choice Coalition, a project of the American Federation for Children, actively engaged in advocating to prevent cuts to education in the state, including cuts to funding for the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

We also worked to advocate for private schools and families during the school closures. Our team created a petition and gathered over 1,500 signatures urging the Governor to provide relief to students in private schools through GEER funding from the CARES Act. We also hosted virtual events to train private school leaders on how to apply for and receive funding.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

In 2020, the AFC-affiliated Nevada Federation for Children (NFC) PAC invested in three key state Senate races in the General Election.



Fighting to avoid a super-majority for the opposition in the state Senate, NFC PAC made nearly 20,000 phone calls and knocked on over 8,000 doors, an effort that led to fantastic results. We were able to defend two strong school choice supporters and pick up an open seat. All victories will be crucial in 2021 as we continue to defend the school choice program during the upcoming legislative session.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Carrie Buck, a former charter school principal, emerged victorious from a very close race in an open seat that was determined by just over 300 votes. Because of her campaign commitment to give parents more educational options, the Nevada Federation for Children PAC sprang into action on her behalf. We organized families across Senate District 5 to make phone calls and knock on doors, urging voters to support Carrie Buck. There is no doubt that these efforts and the tireless work of our volunteers made a difference in this race. As a strong school choice supporter who has advocated for school choice for years, Carrie understands that a high-quality education, including parental choice options, is a pathway to success for students in Nevada.

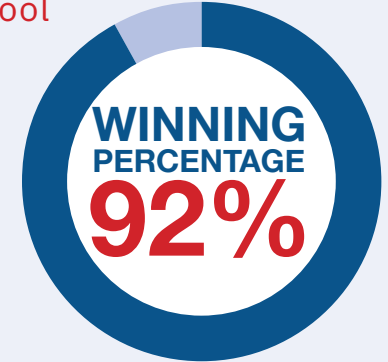


North Carolina

In 2020, AFC's in-state ally, Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina (PEFNC), successfully tied private school choice expansion to a 2020 COVID-19 relief package (CARES Act) in the state Legislature. The package included \$6 million in CARES Act funds for special needs scholarships, as well as important technical corrections to the Opportunity Scholarship Program, including eliminating a cap on K-1 students and expanding income eligibility. PEFNC, while having worked to advance these key priorities for months, sprang into action in the final sprint of the legislative session to see this across the finish line. Legislative leaders worked closely with PEFNC leadership, culminating in a legislative advocacy day as the final COVID-19 relief package passed at the General Assembly.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

With an opponent of school choice, Governor Roy Cooper (D), leading the battle against us in North Carolina, this election was critical in maintaining a school choice majority in the Legislature.



Partners for Educational Freedom in North Carolina (PARTNERS) and their separate Independent Expenditure Committee played an active role in ensuring school choice majorities were not only maintained in the state Legislature but increased. AFC's strategic investments to allied organizations in the Tar Heel state contributed to winning 100% of races where they were directly involved, leading to expanded school choice majorities in both the House and Senate. More than ever, the Tar Heel state is poised for continued growth, as evidenced by the results of the 2020 elections and the growing public perception and support for school choice.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



In 2018, the North Carolina State Senate lost a champion for school choice in Michael Lee. Having lost by only 231 votes, Senator Lee was determined to return in 2020. PARTNERS threw support behind Lee, who won back his Senate seat, defeating the incumbent by 1,268 votes. Lee was instrumental in the writing and passing of North Carolina's Special Needs Education Savings Accounts, and he should be poised to further advance school choice policy as he returns to the General Assembly.

The North Carolina House saw a handful of flipped seats in 2020, including John Bradford, who lost in 2018 by a mere 413 votes. Bradford rededicated himself to his campaign and given his track record of school choice support in the past, PARTNERS did the same. This year brought a more positive outcome for Bradford, who defeated the incumbent by 2,050 votes. We anticipate strong support for school choice policy from Representative Bradford in the General Assembly.





Ohio

This year, AFC's ally, School Choice Ohio, continued its work to expand educational options for students and families. The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and growing public support for choice helped lead to a historic expansion of school choice, allowing all Buckeye families with incomes below 250% Federal Poverty Level (\$65,000 for a family of four) to qualify for an EdChoice Scholarship. Thousands of parents and students made their voices heard to Ohio lawmakers to help achieve this outcome. As a result, applications for Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship Programs have increased by more than 20%. Additionally, School Choice Ohio worked to ensure that busing, CARES funds and other sources of support were available for students choosing to attend nonpublic schools.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

AFC's ally, Ohioans for Parental Choice (O4PC), was involved in three Primary races and four General Election races, investing a total of \$500,000.

O4PC's support helped elect six candidates for the House and Senate to open seats, increasing support for school choice and education reform in both chambers. O4PC's investment strategy focused on candidates who could win, and targeted investment to send the message that voters care about candidates who support school choice. The number of strong supporters in both the Ohio House and Senate will increase for the first time in many years, gaining school choice champions that Ohio families can count on.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



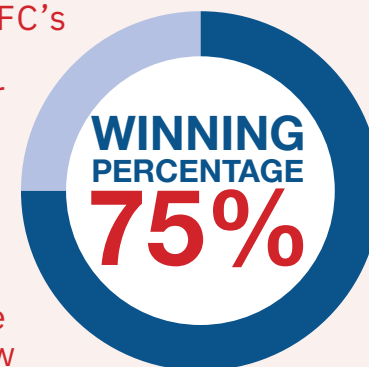
Sarah Fowler Arthur, a Republican and two-term elected state board of education member, was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, flipping a longtime Democratic seat. Sarah's long-standing passion for education and school choice was highlighted by O4PC in its independent expenditures, and she will continue to be a leader on education policy in Ohio.

Oklahoma

The 2018 teacher walkout, combined with the subsequent election of the largest freshman class in recent history, created an environment where we must work hard to educate lawmakers on school choice issues. Despite having a very supportive Governor, 2020 was a disappointing session because COVID-19 and legislative power struggles derailed an opportunity to raise the cap on the private school scholarship tax credit program. Offsetting that disappointment, however, AFC was able to shift our attention to the creation, launch, and successful implementation of the GEER tuition assistance (\$10M) and digital wallet programs (\$8M) for Governor Stitt. The tuition assistance program may be among the most meaningful full-throated school choice success stories in the nation this year. It will also benefit our future efforts in Oklahoma, because numerous children were able to attend private school, demonstrating that school choice demand exists among all demographics, locales and income levels.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

In the 2020 elections, AFC's state-affiliated PAC, Oklahoma Federation for Children (OFC) Action Fund, spent over \$200,000 to defeat anti-school choice incumbents, defend our incumbent school choice supporters and elect new champions in open seats.



Our efforts were successful, ultimately defeating four targeted incumbents who opposed school choice and helping to elect 16 school choice champions. Looking to 2021, we are confident this work has laid the groundwork for meaningful school choice expansion in the state Legislature.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



In the Senate District 17 Primary, OFC Action Fund supported Shane Jett, a homeschool dad and proponent of education choice, over an incumbent who was a vocal opponent of private choice and virtual charters.

In the House District 99 Democrat Primary, the incumbent, Representative Ajay Pittman, was woefully underfunded against Susan Porter, who had significant support from outside groups. OFC Action Fund successfully launched a targeted digital campaign using news footage of Pittman speaking at a rally, painting her as a leader for the next generation of civil rights activists. After the election, Pittman credited that work, saying she believed that was what won her the election.





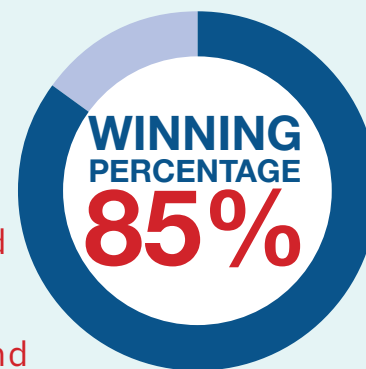
Tennessee

AFC worked with the Tennessee Department of Education to craft rules and policies for successful implementation of the new Education Savings Account (ESA) program that would allow for swift marketing and ultimate registration of more than 2,700 students in the new program. These rules and policies were eventually adopted by the Joint Government Operations Committee. Furthermore, due to AFC's advocacy, and despite decreased revenues caused by COVID-19 and the ongoing legal challenges to the ESA, funding for the implementation of private school choice programs remained in the budget.

This year, AFC filed an amicus brief in the lawsuit over Tennessee's ESA program, asking the Tennessee Supreme Court to take up the case and overturn the decision of the Court of Appeals. This lawsuit emphasizes that even pre-pandemic, only 15.5% of low-income students in Nashville and 17.3% of low-income students in Memphis were academically on track. COVID-19 is exacerbating longstanding achievement gaps and the ESA program would give an immediate lifeline to 5,000 students in the first year. This program can grow to provide new educational opportunities for 15,000 in Tennessee's two largest cities.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

AFC's state-affiliated political committee, Tennessee Federation for Children (TFC) PAC, was engaged in Primary and General Election races primarily to defend a number of school choice supporters from attacks from the state and local teachers' unions.



This work was successful, leading to an 85% win rate of TFC PAC supported candidates. These wins will allow the Tennessee General Assembly to maintain school choice majorities in both the House and Senate.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Senate District 26, the largest geographic district in the state, was vacated by retiring school choice champion and Education Committee Chair, Sen. Dolores Gresham. Electing a member who would be a strong advocate for parent choice was a priority. Many established politicians supported

Page Walley's opponent, who was not a supporter of school choice reforms. TFC PAC was the lone education reform advocacy organization engaged in this race on behalf of Sen. Walley, and he ultimately pulled off the upset, defeating his opponent 53% to 47%.

County Commissioner Michele Carringer was pitted against Knox County School Board member Patti Bounds in a race to succeed outgoing Speaker Pro Tempore Bill Dunn. Dunn sponsored Tennessee's ESA legislation, which Bounds adamantly opposed. TFC PAC partnered with several state advocacy partners to support Carringer, who eventually won her race 58% to 42%.



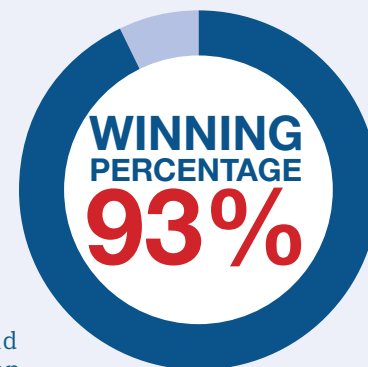
Texas



The Texas Legislature did not meet in 2020. It meets only in odd-numbered years unless a special session is called. But AFC successfully spearheaded the proposal to use the first round of GEER funding to advance school choice. We led the advocacy and lobbying efforts, which have resulted in the Governor and Education Commissioner approving a \$30 million catch-up grant for special needs children who were enrolled in public school as of March 2020. This is the first time in Texas history that parents have been allowed to select service providers for their children.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

The Texas Federation for Children (TFC) PAC had a very successful 2020 election season.



TFC PAC supported a bipartisan slate of candidates, incumbents and first-time candidates, all of whom support giving parents high-quality educational options. Between the Primaries, runoffs and General Elections, the TFC PAC won 25 of the 27 races we were actively engaged in, and 15 of the 17 preferred candidates won their elections, setting the stage for a productive 2021 legislative session.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



The Texas Federation for Children PAC supported the re-election campaign of former Texas State Representative Republican Mike Schofield in House District 132. Schofield narrowly lost his re-election campaign in 2018, and though he wasn't the preferred candidate of several GOP groups that threw their support behind a Republican newcomer, his consistent, unwavering support of school choice during his time as a legislator earned our support. In a very tight race, our election work proved to be crucial in ensuring Schofield won the Republican Primary, and ultimately Schofield was able to unseat his anti-school choice democrat opponent.

TFC PAC also supported a 35-year veteran Democrat legislator, Harold Dutton. Dutton's past support of school choice legislation provoked the ire of teachers' unions, who conspired with Democratic Party members to challenge Dutton in the Primary. Having lost the support of some in the Democratic Party leadership, and being challenged by a teachers' union-backed candidate, Dutton's fate was uncertain until the TFC PAC and other education reform allies stepped in to provide support. Even though he was forced into a runoff for the first time in his career, Dutton was able to hold off the teachers' union-backed challenger and secure his re-election.



Wisconsin



Much of AFC's legislative work took place during the first year of the 2019-20 biennial legislative session. We were able to prevent all of the negative proposals anti-school choice Governor Evers (D) proposed in his initial budget. Going into 2020, we were working on a bipartisan bill for a course choice open enrollment program to allow students the ability to take specific courses, regardless of the school or sector. This legislation passed through the Education Committee in the House but stalled in February due to preemptive shutdowns over COVID-19.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

The 2020 election cycle proved incredibly successful as AFC's two state affiliated political committees helped defend a strong majority in both the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate through independent expenditures and direct contributions.



This work was critical, as school choice supporters were faced with unprecedented levels of spending by their opponents. Our success will provide a firewall against any negative legislation that might be offered by Governor Evers and other school choice opponents in 2021.

2020 CANDIDATE HIGHLIGHT



Newly Elected Democrat State Representative Dora Drake will replace retiring school choice champion Jason Fields. Dora is a vocal supporter and will be a vital addition to our bipartisan coalition in the Wisconsin Assembly.

Republican Todd Novak won re-election for the third time, carrying a Democratic-leaning district that was won by every statewide Democratic candidate during the 2020 election cycle, including Joe Biden. Representative Novak's unwavering support of school choice was a key component in his reelection campaign.



Federal and Washington, D.C.

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed and the President signed the CARES Act, the largest federal relief package in history at more than \$2 trillion. The bill had \$16.2 billion for K-12 education, which included a \$3 billion discretionary fund for Governors – the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund. While the CARES Act did include “equitable services” for some nonpublic schools and some nonpublic schools were able to access Paycheck Protection Program funds, thousands of nonpublic schools and nearly 2 million families were left in a precarious position.

AFC led a national effort to ensure that any new COVID relief would include aid for nonpublic schools and families, expand educational choice and give Governors additional discretionary funds without restrictions. AFC also urged Governors to use their discretionary funds to create or expand educational options, and several Governors did so.

In September, the United States Senate included the School Choice Now Act in two targeted relief bills. School Choice Now would have set aside 10% of any new K-12 COVID aid for nonpublic schools and distributed those funds through Scholarship Granting Organizations. It also included a \$5 billion federal tax credit, a policy idea introduced by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos that AFC had championed since 2017. This would have provided scholarships for public and nonpublic students for two years. While both of the Senate’s bills were filibustered by Democrats prior to the election, it was the first time a majority of the U.S. Senate voted in favor of a new school choice offering.

In December, Congress passed a COVID relief bill that included an unprecedented \$2.75 billion set aside for nonpublic schools. Unfortunately, under pressure from the teachers’ unions, they did not include the School Choice Now Act and they imposed restrictions to prevent Governors from using new GEER funds to create or expand educational choice in their states.

Since 2006, AFC has led the effort for Congress to reauthorize and fund the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program. This year, we were successful in securing another \$17.5 billion for the program while also increasing funds for the program administrator to use for parent engagement and tutoring.

The American Federation for Children seeks to empower families, especially lower-income families, with the freedom to choose the best K–12 education for their children.

There are 55 publicly funded private school choice programs in 26 states plus D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Private school choice programs are serving more than half a million students today.

Since 2012, enrollment has more than doubled.

AFC's team has helped pass 40 new school choice laws in 19 states since 2009. Over this period, the work of AFC and local allies has produced a 185 percent increase in private school choice program enrollment.



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