



School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

“Any program that expands educational choices also opens opportunities for kids who don’t have enough chances to move up the ladder to a better life—maybe even to the White House.”

– **Clarence Page**, *Chicago Tribune*, November 12, 2008

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

An Annual Publication

Published by:

Alliance for School Choice
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 280-1990

www.AllianceForSchoolChoice.org

Copyright © 2009 Alliance for School Choice, All Rights Reserved

ISBN 978-0-9816482-2-4

The primary author and researcher of the *School Choice Yearbook 2008-09* was Geoffrey Goodman. Principal contributors and editors were Andrew Campanella, Scott Jensen, John Schilling, and Leyla Ballantyne. Special thanks to Zack Dawes, Lori Drummer, Anna Varghese Marcucio, Jamie Self, and Robert Teegarden for their review of the state program pages.

Book and cover design by Corey Kliever

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing

Alliance for School Choice and Advocates for School Choice Mission Statement

School
Choice
Yearbook
2008-09



The Alliance for School Choice and Advocates for School Choice seek to improve our nation's K-12 education by advancing systemic and sustainable public policy that empowers parents, particularly those in low-income families, to choose the education they determine is best for their children.

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in school choice. The *School Choice Yearbook* is the school choice movement's most comprehensive annual digest of data, research, and analysis. Whether you are looking for details on a particular voucher or scholarship tax credit program, information on public opinion polling, or analysis of programmatic trends—you'll find everything you are looking for inside this award-winning publication.

As we review 2008, we are happy to report that the school choice movement continues to expand and recruit new supporters. Thanks to the hard work of state-level organizations and activists across the country, 2008 saw the creation of major programs in Georgia and Louisiana and the expansion or improvement of four additional programs. Today, there are 18 school choice programs operating in 10 states and the District of Columbia, serving 171,000 children. As you will read in this book, these programs are supported by Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, making school choice a truly nonpartisan movement.

Thank you again for your interest and support. Please visit our Web site at AllianceForSchoolChoice.org for periodic data updates to this text.

Table of Contents

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Mission Statement	1
Introduction	2
What Is School Choice?	4
Growth at a Glance	8
School Choice Progress in 2008	14
How It Works	18
Voucher Programs	18
Scholarship Tax Credit Programs	20
Creating a School Choice Bill in Your State	21
School Choice Spotlights	22
More Democrats Supporting School Choice	22
Teachers Supporting School Choice	25
Public Support for School Choice	27
Research	30
2008 School Choice Research Recap	30
Education in America: A Nation Still at Risk	34
School Choice Programs in the United States	36
Table of Contents	37
Arizona	38
Florida	42
Georgia	44
Iowa	46
Louisiana	47
Ohio	48
Pennsylvania	51
Rhode Island	52
Utah	53
Wisconsin	54
Washington, D.C.	55
About the Alliance for School Choice and Advocates for School Choice	56
Contact Information	57
National and State School Choice Organizations	58
Endnotes	59



What Is School Choice?

School choice means different things to different people. To us, school choice puts parents in charge of their children's education by letting them choose the best schools for their kids, whether public or private. Some parents exercise school choice when they pay for their child to go to a private school or when they choose to live in a particular neighborhood because of its high-quality public schools. But many low- and moderate-income parents do not have the ability to move to a new school district, choose a charter school, or pay full tuition at a private school. Too often, their children are confined to failing schools. We believe that these parents deserve the same educational freedoms that other parents experience.

Two public policies that empower parents to choose their children's schools are voucher programs and scholarship tax credit programs.

Voucher programs provide children with publicly funded scholarships that directly follow them to the private schools of their parents' choice. When a child's parents decide on a private school, they then designate the voucher for that school. One particularly popular type of voucher program helps children with disabilities attend private schools that are equipped to meet their special needs.

Scholarship tax credit programs encourage the community to get directly involved in improving education. These programs provide state income tax credits to individuals or businesses that donate to local nonprofit organizations that grant scholarships to children to attend private schools.

There are 11 voucher programs and seven scholarship tax credit programs operating in 10 states and the District of Columbia. Ever since the first school choice program was launched in Milwaukee in 1990, the majority of these programs have been designed to help low-and moderate-income families.

All parents want the best education for their children, but far too many lack the resources. Voucher and scholarship tax credit programs empower these parents with more options for their children. For many students, their local public schools will be the best option. For others, charter schools or private schools will better meet their needs.

When parents are empowered to choose, kids win. School choice works.

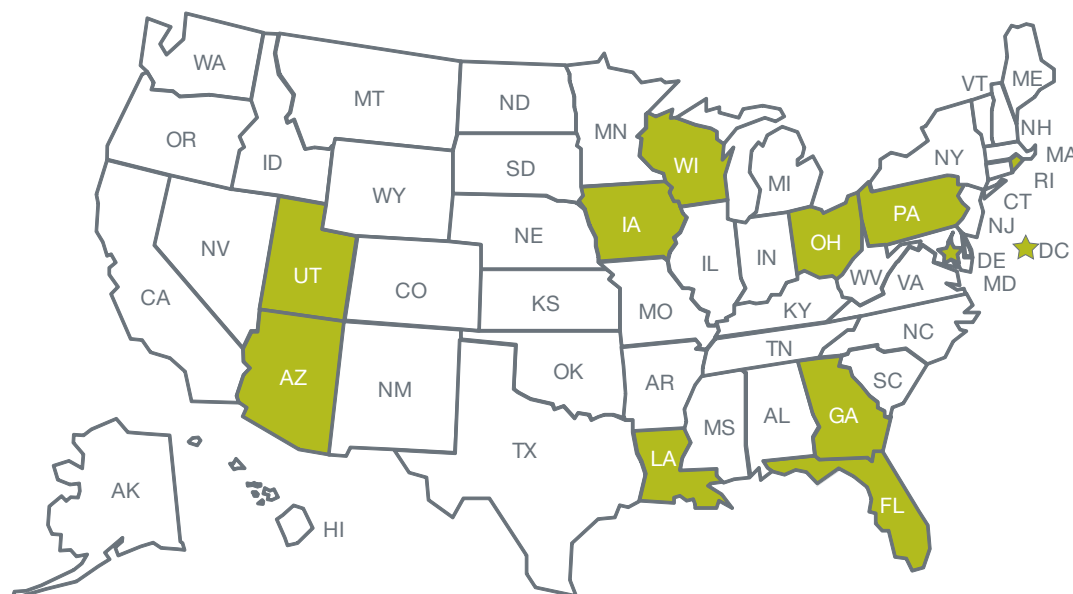


"The Washington Scholarship Fund is the seed of our investment into the future," says Malcom Jordan, whose four children (pictured here) attend Dupont Park School in Washington, D.C., thanks to an Opportunity Scholarship.

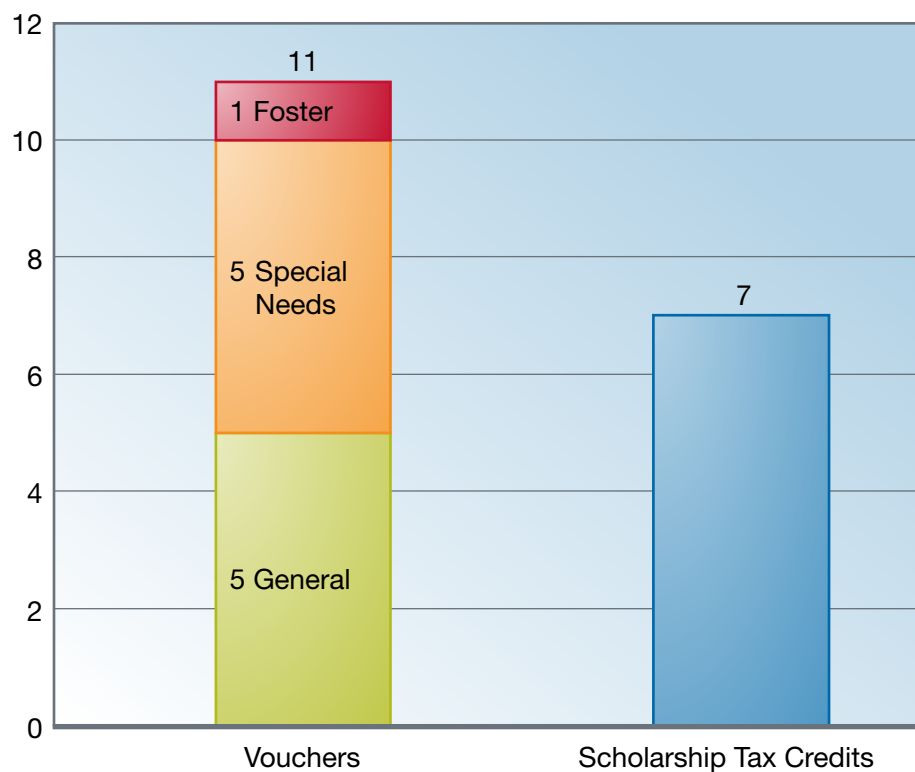
School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

States with Targeted Private School Choice Programs



18 Private School Choice Programs



Private School Choice Programs in the United States: 2008-09 School Year

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

State	Program Name	Program Type	Year Enacted	# Scholarships	Average Scholarship Amount	# Participating Private Schools	Scholarship \$ Cap and/or Enrollment Cap	Annual Tax Credit Cap or Voucher Program Appropriation**
Arizona	Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	Scholarship Tax Credit	1997	27,153*	\$1,788*	359*	None	No cap; \$54.3 million* donated in 2007
	Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	Scholarship Tax Credit	2006	1,947*	\$2,374*	156*	\$4,400 (K-8); \$5,700 (9-12)	\$14.4 million
	Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities	Voucher	2006	211	\$9,308	54*	None	\$2.5 million
	Displaced Pupils Choice Grant Program	Voucher	2006	228	\$3,929*	107	\$5,000; 500 students	\$2.5 million
Florida	McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	Voucher	1999	19,571	\$7,295*	873	None	\$131.3 million* (spent in 2007-08)
	Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Scholarship Tax Credit	2001	22,272	\$3,417*	966	\$3,950	\$118 million
Georgia	Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	Voucher	2007	1,596	\$6,331	139	None	\$5.9 million
	Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program	Scholarship Tax Credit	2008	NA	NA	NA	None	\$50 million
Iowa	Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	Scholarship Tax Credit	2006	8,737	\$856	156	None	\$7.5 million
Louisiana	Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program	Voucher	2008	640	\$3,919	35	\$7,138	\$10 million
Ohio	Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	Voucher	1995	5,752	\$2,894*	43	\$3,150	\$18 million
	Autism Scholarship Program	Voucher	2003	1,005	\$15,500*	200	\$20,000	\$15.6 million* (spent in 2007-08)
	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	Voucher	2005	9,654	\$3,564*	312	\$4,500 (K-8); \$5,300 (9-12); 14,000 students	\$25.5 million (spent in 2007-08)
Pennsylvania	Educational Improvement Tax Credit	Scholarship Tax Credit	2001	43,764*	1,022*	NA	None	\$44.7 million
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit	Scholarship Tax Credit	2006	291	\$5,879	25	None	\$1 million
Utah	Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	Voucher	2005	500	\$4,692	45	\$3,865.50 (under 3 hrs. of service); \$6,442.50 (3+ hrs. of service)	\$3.5 million
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	Voucher	1990	19,538	NA	127	\$6,607; 22,500 students	\$128.8 million (state spending estimate)
District of Columbia	D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program	Voucher	2004	1,716	\$6,300	52	\$7,500	\$12.7 million

Source: Latest available program data contained in the program pages section of the *School Choice Yearbook 2008-09*

NA indicates data not available

* 2007-08 data

** Where overall program caps or specific program appropriations do not exist, we have listed the amount spent on or donated to that program



Growth at a Glance

A record number of children benefit from a record number of private school choice programs operating in a record number of states.

- In the 2008-09 school year, approximately 171,000* children are participating in 18 school choice programs in 10 states and the District of Columbia.

The school choice movement is continuing to make progress throughout the country.

- In 2008, Georgia enacted a \$50 million scholarship tax credit program, and Louisiana enacted a \$10 million scholarship program for New Orleans. Students are already benefiting from these programs in the 2008-09 school year.
- This year, private school choice programs were expanded or improved in Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Utah. Additionally, the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program received continued federal funding into the 2009-10 school year.

*Estimate based on latest available 2008-09 program data and historical enrollment growth trends.

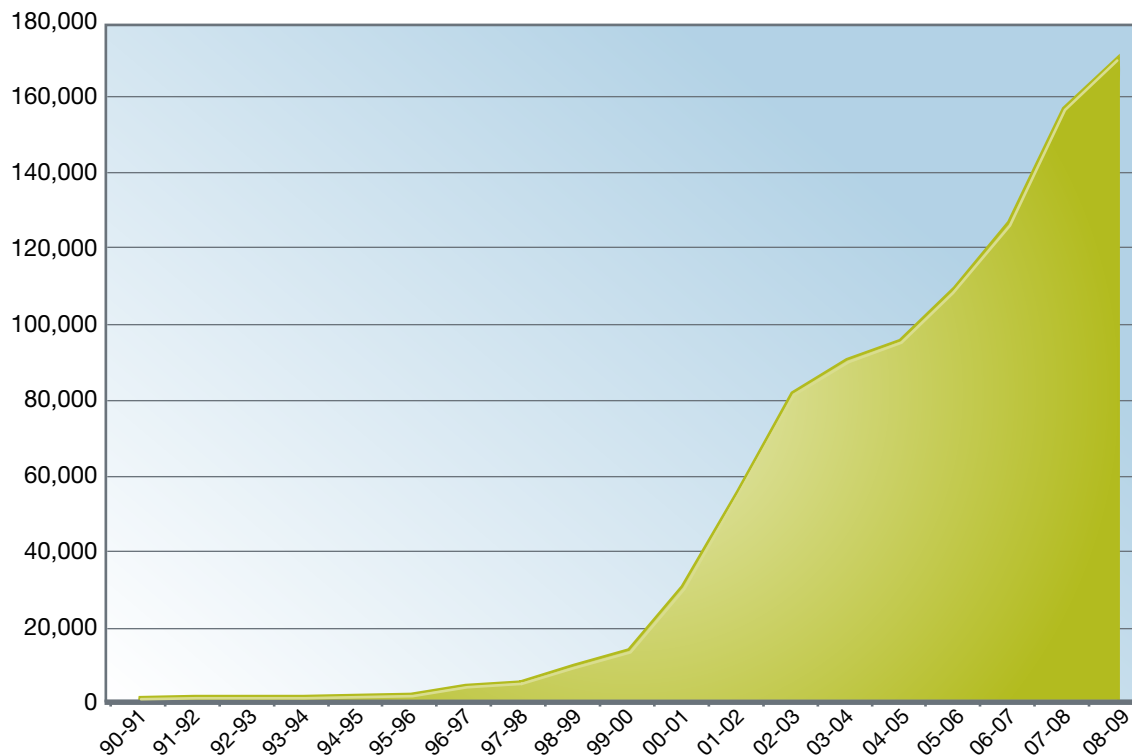
Student participation is growing.

- Student participation is up 8 percent over the 2007-08 school year and up 89 percent over five years.
- Student participation is up in all types of programs over five years:
 - Enrollment in scholarship tax credit programs is up 90 percent.
 - Enrollment in general voucher programs is up 94 percent.
 - Enrollment in special needs voucher programs is up 76 percent.

Support in state legislatures is expanding.

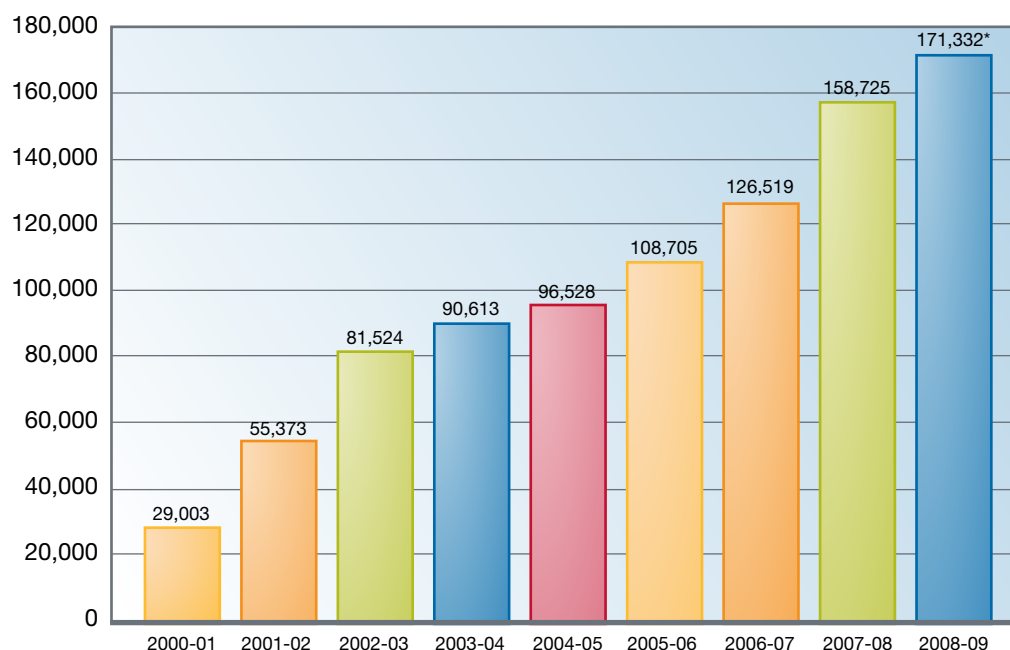
- In the 2007-08 legislative session, school choice bills were introduced in 44 states.
- More than one-quarter of all state legislative chambers passed a private school choice bill during the 2007-08 legislative session.
- In 2008, six states passed a school choice bill in both of their legislative chambers, while an additional five states passed a bill in one chamber.

Student Enrollment Growth in Targeted School Choice Programs



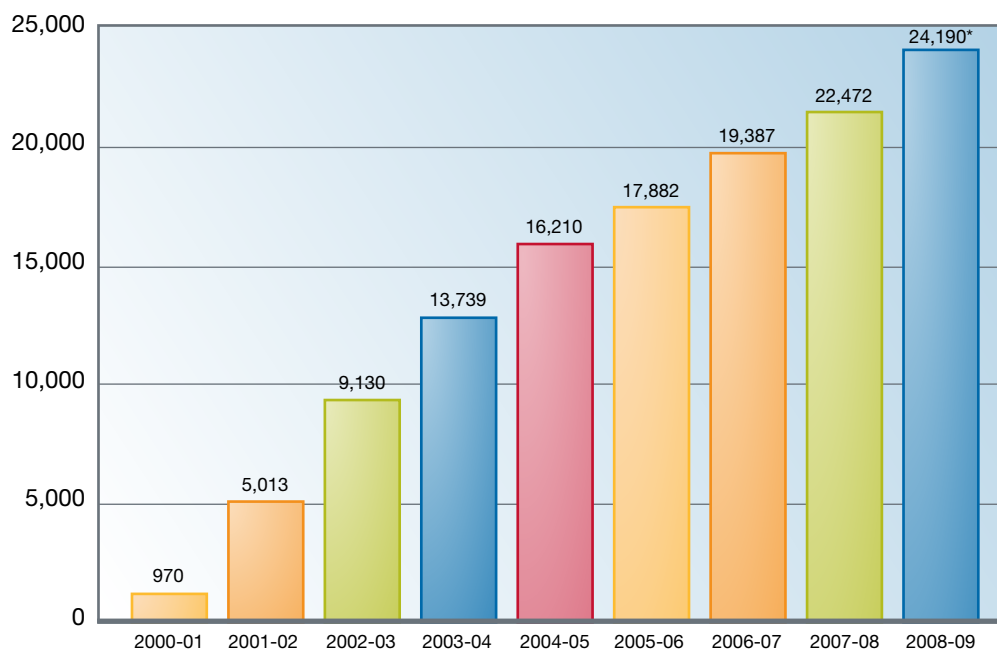
School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Recent Student Enrollment Growth in Targeted School Choice Programs



*Estimate based on latest available 2008-09 program data and historical enrollment growth trends.

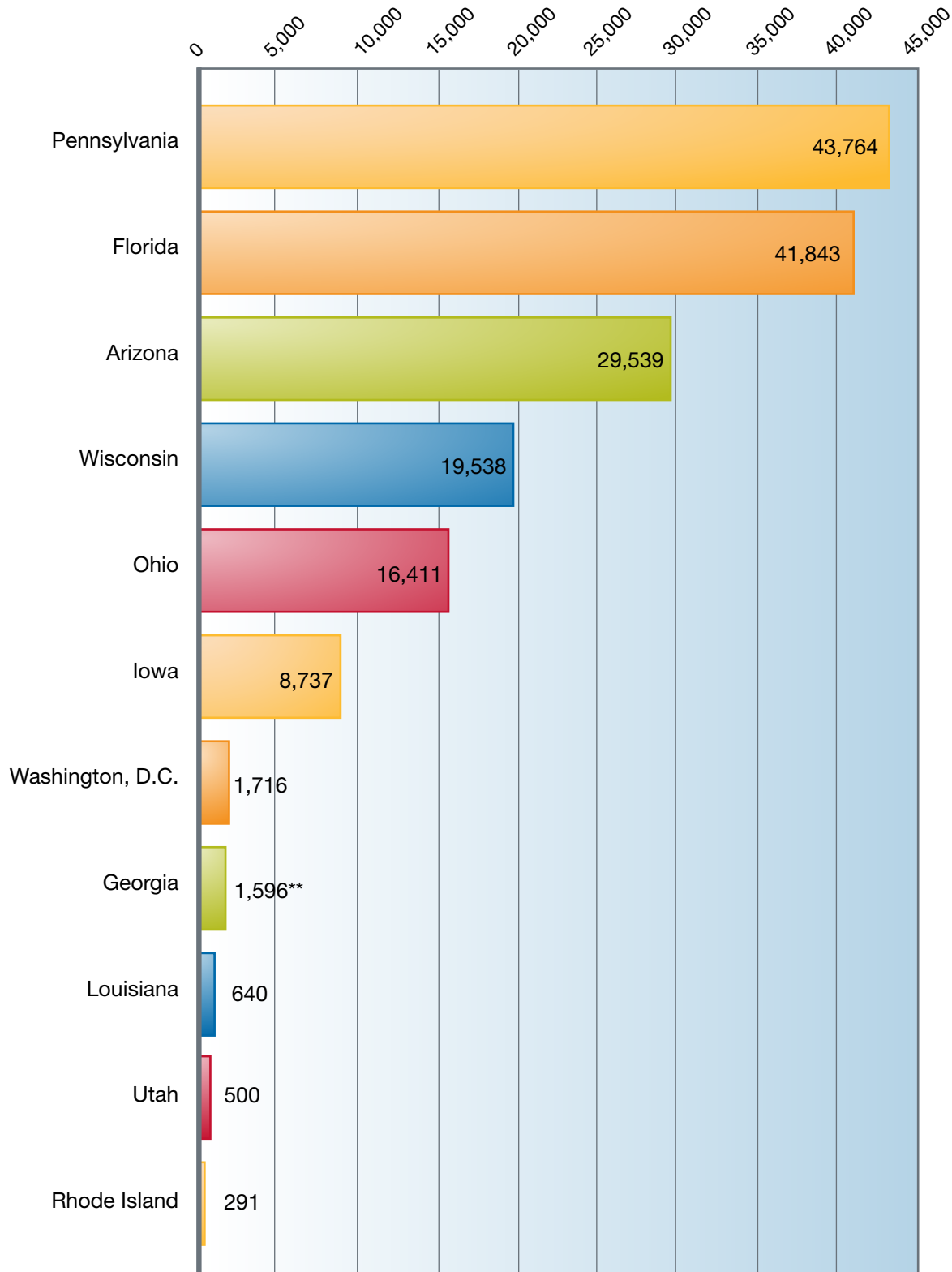
Recent Student Enrollment Growth in Special Needs Scholarship Programs



*Estimate based on latest available 2008-09 program data and historical enrollment growth trends.

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

2008-09 Scholarship Recipients by State*

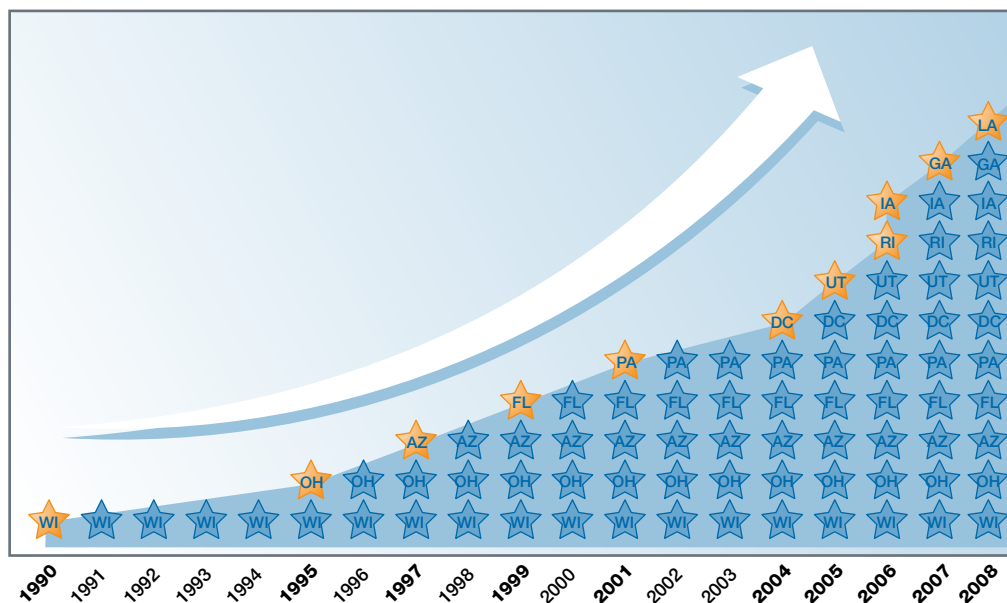


*Based on latest program data contained in the *School Choice Yearbook 2008-09*.

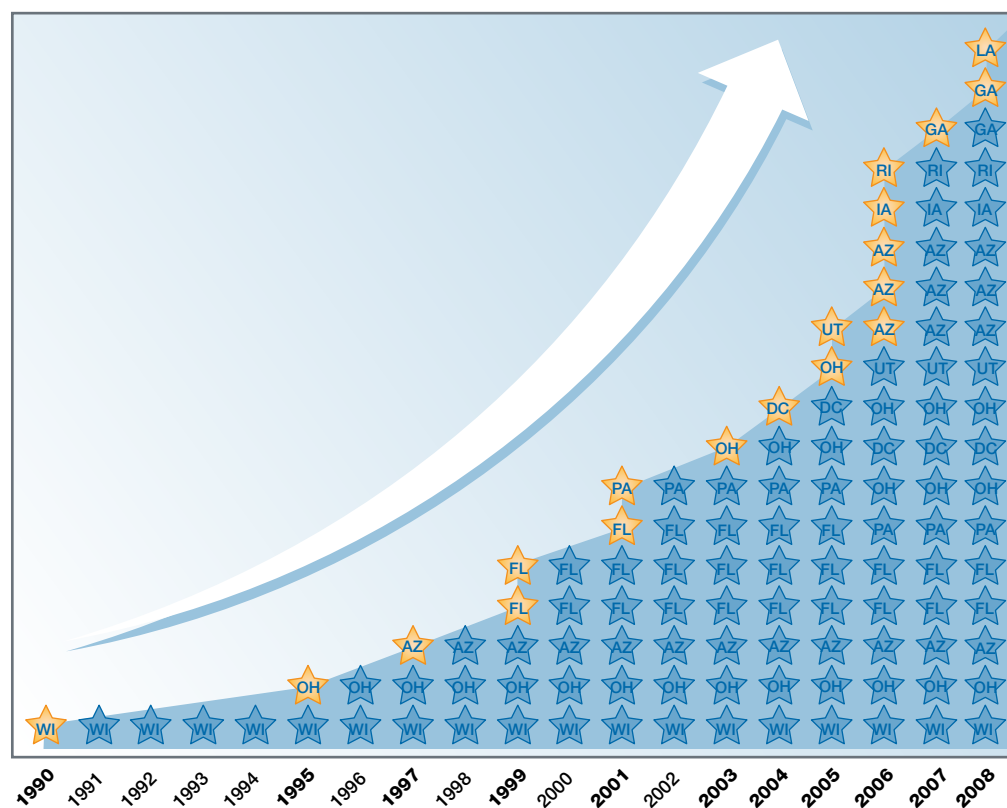
**Georgia data does not include the Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program, for which data is not yet available.

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

States with Private School Choice Programs

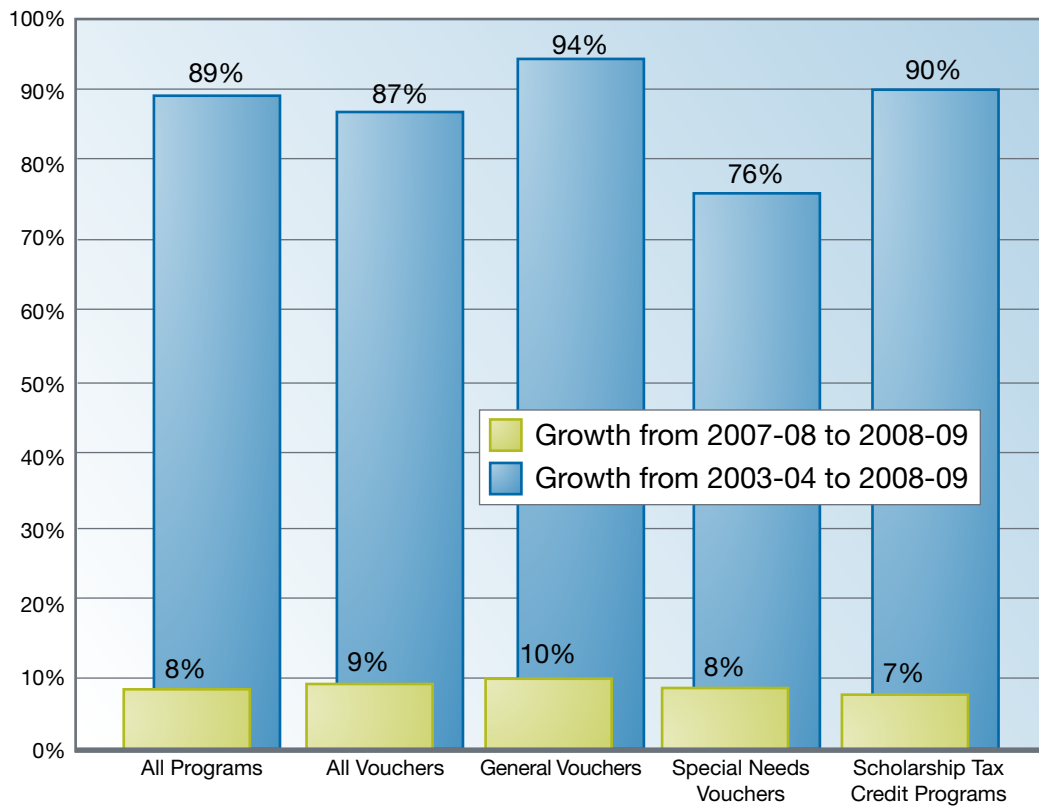


Growth in Number of Programs



School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Rate of Student Enrollment Growth*



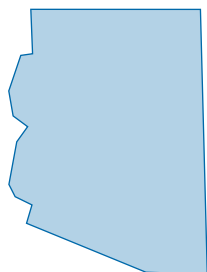
*Estimate based on program data and enrollment growth trends.



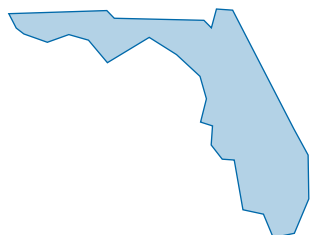
An Arizona scholarship recipient speaks to the press at a rally outside of the Arizona Supreme Court on December 9, 2008.

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

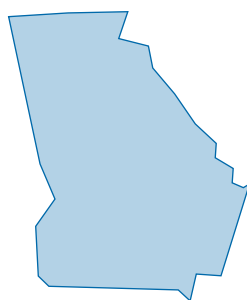
School Choice Progress in 2008



Arizona – The Arizona legislature funded a \$2.4 million expansion of the corporate scholarship tax credit program in the state's budget, raising the program's statewide tax credit cap to \$14.4 million.



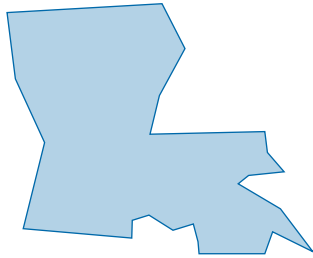
Florida – The state's popular Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program, known as "Step Up for Students," was expanded by \$30 million with strong bipartisan support, bringing the statewide tax credit cap to \$118 million. The expansion is expected to provide scholarships for an additional 6,000 students. The bill was supported by a majority of African-American legislators, all of the state's Hispanic legislators, and one-third of the entire Democratic caucus. Additionally, the maximum scholarship was increased from \$3,750 to \$3,950, and foster children are now eligible to participate. Also, Scholarship Funding Organizations are now allowed to utilize three percent of the money they raise for administrative purposes, helping them increase family outreach and community awareness.



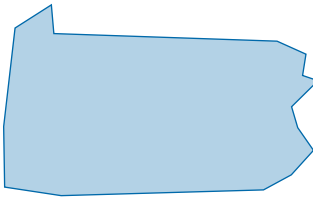
Georgia – The state legislature and Governor Sonny Perdue continued the momentum of 2007—when the Peach State enacted a special needs program—by passing and implementing a \$50 million corporate and individual scholarship tax credit program. The state's special needs program, now in its second year, continues to grow and is serving more than 1,500 students.

School Choice Yearbook

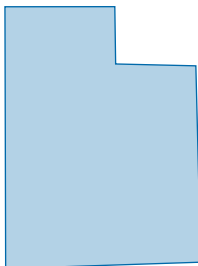
2008-09



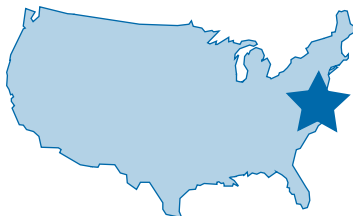
Louisiana – With the \$10 million Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, which is targeted to low-income children in failing schools in New Orleans, Louisiana became the 10th state to enact a private school choice program. Sponsored by two Democratic legislators from New Orleans, the bill was passed with bipartisan support. The program is off to a strong start, already serving more than 600 students and outpacing expectations.



Pennsylvania – The legislature increased the maximum business contribution limit for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Additionally, subchapter S corporations are now allowed to participate in the EITC.



Utah – The legislature expanded the permanent funding of the Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship program by \$1 million.

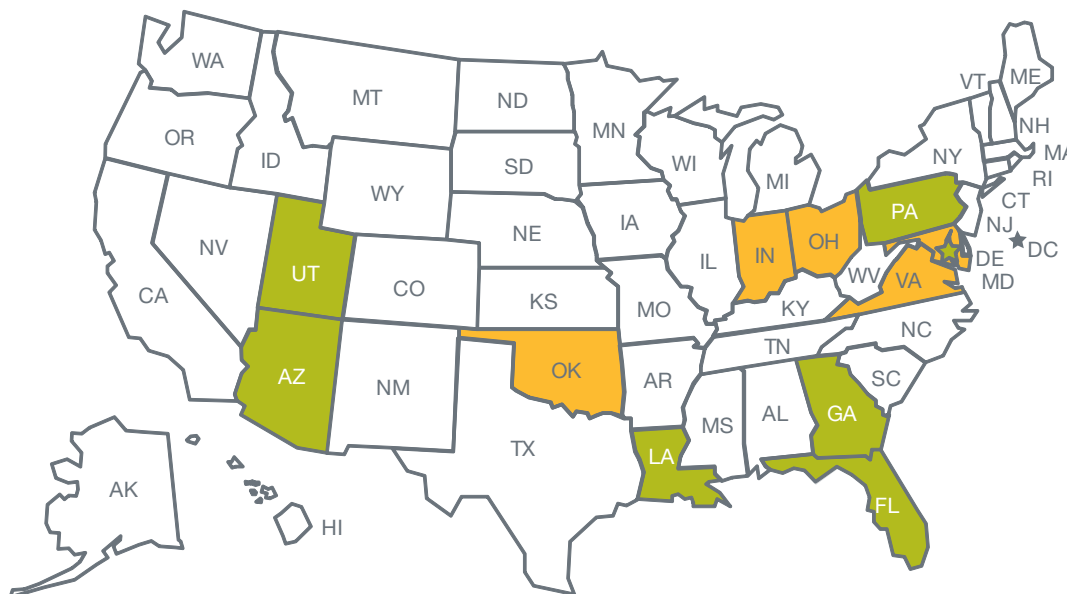


Washington, D.C. – Congress approved continued funding for the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program into the 2009-10 school year. Mayor Adrian Fenty and D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee support the program's formal reauthorization. Additionally, national newspapers such as *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal* have editorialized in favor of the program.

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Legislative Progress in 2008



5 Passed ONE Legislative House

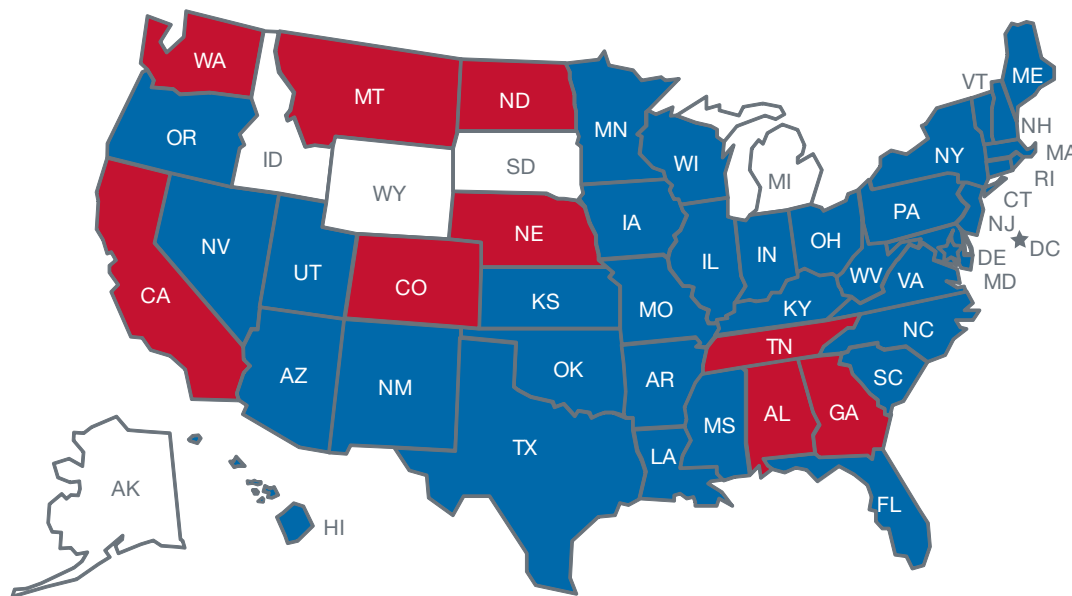
7 Passed TWO Legislative Houses

New Scholarship Opportunities Created in 2008

State	Legislation	New Opps*	New \$
AZ	Expansion of Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	1,500	\$2,400,000
FL	Expansion and Improvement of Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program	6,000	\$30,000,000
GA	Enactment of Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program	13,500	\$50,000,000
LA	Enactment of Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (New Orleans)	1,500	\$10,000,000
PA	Increase # of Eligible Businesses and Contribution Limits for the EITC	0	0
UT	Expansion of Permanent Funding for Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	200	\$1,000,000
D.C.	Extension of Funding for D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program	0	\$12,720,000
TOTAL		22,700	\$106,120,000

*All figures are estimates.

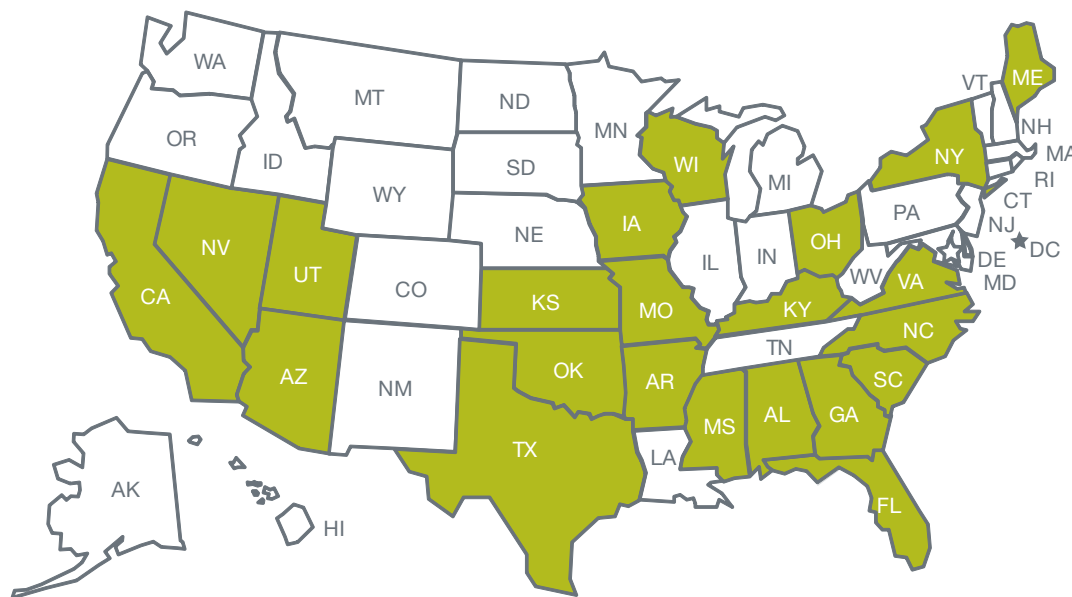
School Choice Bills Introduced in 44 States in the 2007-08 Legislative Session



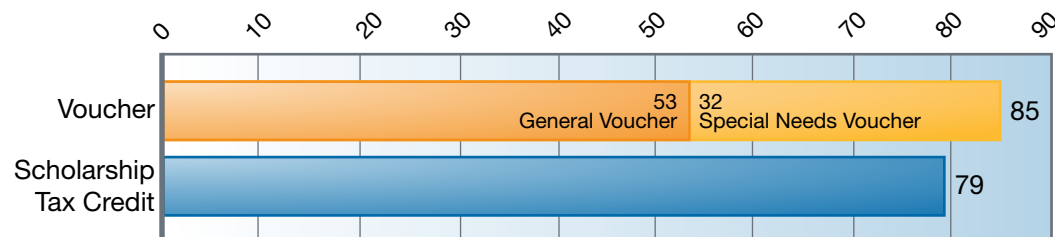
35 Also introduced school choice bills in 2005-06

9 Did not introduce school choice bills in 2005-06

Special Needs Scholarship Bills Introduced in 22 States



Number of Voucher & Scholarship Tax Credit Bills Introduced in the 2007-08 Legislative Session





How It Works

Voucher Programs

Education vouchers are a method of public funding that empower parents by allowing public money to follow their children to the private schools of their choice.

Types of K-12 voucher programs:

- **Means-tested voucher programs** are targeted to low-income families who meet specific income criteria, typically around 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline.

Existing programs:

Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program
(means-preferenced)

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program

Louisiana's Student Scholarships for Educational
Excellence Program (also a failing schools program)

D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program

- **Failing schools voucher programs** are targeted to children in low-performing public schools.

Existing programs: Ohio's Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarship Program
Louisiana's Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (also means-tested)

- **Special education voucher programs** are targeted to children with special educational needs. Typically, they require the student to have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to qualify.

Existing programs: Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities
Florida's McKay Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities Program
Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program
Ohio's Autism Scholarship Program
Utah's Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship

- **Foster child voucher programs** are targeted to children in foster care, who, because of their situation, are often forced to change schools many times over the course of their K-12 education.

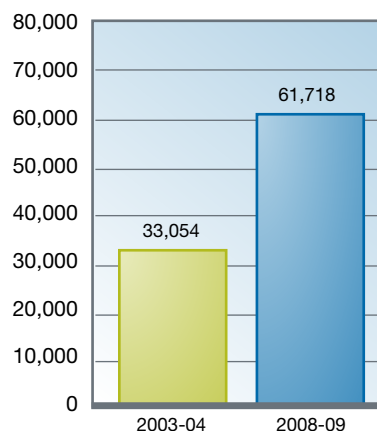
Existing program: Arizona's Displaced Pupils Choice Grant Program

- **G.I. Junior voucher programs** are targeted to children in military families, who often live on bases or in areas with high concentrations of failing schools.
- **Universal voucher programs** allow all children, regardless of their family income, where they live, or any other criteria, to participate. In effect, this type of program serves to separate the government financing of education from the government operation of schools. It can be means-preferenced so that poorer families receive larger vouchers.

States with voucher programs:

- Arizona
- Florida
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Ohio
- Utah
- Wisconsin
- Washington, D.C.

**Recent Enrollment Growth
in Voucher Programs**



School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Recent research has demonstrated that scholarship tax credit programs save hundreds of millions—if not billions—of state and local taxpayer dollars.

Scholarship Tax Credit Programs

Scholarship tax credit programs provide individuals and/or corporations with tax credits for charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations that grant children scholarships to attend the private schools of their parents' choice.

Overview

- Rather than being operated by the government, these scholarship programs are run by nonprofit, tax-exempt, scholarship granting organizations, which use the contributions to provide scholarships that enable children to attend private schools.
- Typically, laws require that eligible families meet certain income criteria.
- Scholarship granting organizations use their own criteria for distributing scholarship monies to eligible students.
- States monitor these organizations to ensure financial accountability.
- Depending on the state, these organizations are referred to as Scholarship Organizations (SOs), School Tuition Organizations (STOs), Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs), Student Scholarship Organizations (SSOs), or Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFOs).

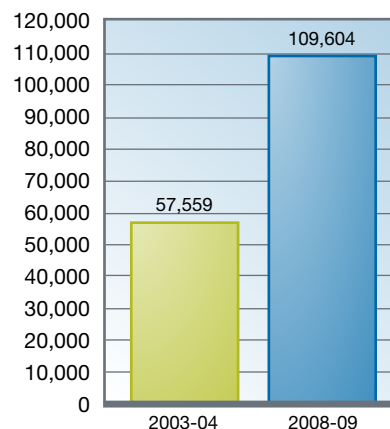
Why create a scholarship tax credit program?

- The scholarships do not originate from state appropriations but from private charitable donations made under the provisions of the tax code. Accordingly, they are *not* funded by public agencies.
- In each state that has adopted these scholarship programs, both existing charitable groups and newly formed charitable groups are registered as scholarship granting organizations to provide scholarships to help students. It is likely that some infrastructure is already present in your state, so these programs have a short start-up period and can quickly benefit disadvantaged students.
- These programs provide smart incentives for individuals and businesses to get involved in education, ensuring that children are able to attend the schools that are right for them.

States with scholarship tax credit programs:

- Arizona
- Florida
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island

Recent Enrollment Growth in Scholarship Tax Credit Programs



Creating a School Choice Bill in Your State

Model legislation available from the Alliance for School Choice

Lawmakers interested in drafting legislation to support school choice should review model legislation on the Alliance for School Choice's Web site, AllianceForSchoolChoice.org. Each bill is approved by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and supported by the Alliance for School Choice, the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, and the Institute for Justice.

Parental Choice Scholarship Program Act

This bill creates a scholarship program for children from low- and middle-income families to attend the public or private elementary or secondary schools of their parents' choice.

Great Schools Tax Credit Program Act

This bill authorizes a tax credit for individual and corporate contributions to organizations that provide educational scholarships to eligible students so they can attend qualified public and private schools of their parents' choice.

The Special Needs Scholarship Program Act

This bill provides students with special needs the option to attend the public or private schools of their parents' choice.

Autism Scholarship Act

This bill provides students with autism the option to attend the public or private schools of their parents' choice.

The Foster Child Scholarship Program Act

This bill provides children who have been placed in foster care the option to attend the public or private schools of their guardians' choice.

The Smart Start Scholarship Program

This bill creates a scholarship program that helps children from low- and middle-income families attend the public or private 4-year-old preschool program or 5-year-old kindergarten programs of their parents' choice.

Military Family Scholarship Program Act

This bill creates a scholarship program to provide G.I. Junior scholarships for all children of veterans and active military personnel to attend the elementary or secondary schools of their parents' choice.



School Choice Spotlights

More Democrats Supporting School Choice

As was the case in 2006 and 2007, Democrats were instrumental in the majority of school choice legislative victories in 2008.

- In Florida, the \$30 million expansion of the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship program was supported by a majority of African-American legislators, all Hispanic legislators, and one-third of the entire Democratic caucus.
- In Louisiana, the New Orleans voucher program passed through the Democratic House and Senate; the bill's authors in each house were Democrats, and 28 Democratic legislators voted for the bill.
- With the support of Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty and other prominent Democrats, continued funding of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program was approved by Congress.

Legislative chambers controlled by Democrats that approved school choice bills during the last three years

Democratic House	Democratic Senate
D.C. (U.S. House)	D.C. (U.S. Senate)
Iowa	Iowa
Louisiana	Louisiana
Pennsylvania	Maryland
Rhode Island	New Mexico
	Oklahoma (Tied)
	Rhode Island

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Democrats have also been instrumental in states that are considering enacting school choice legislation.

- In Maryland, a Democratic senator sponsored a scholarship tax credit bill, and the Democratic Senate approved it by a margin of nearly 2-to-1.
- In New Jersey, members of the Democratic leadership and key committee chairs are sponsors of scholarship tax credit legislation.
- In New Mexico, Democratic leaders in both houses have now embraced scholarship tax credit legislation.

Party Control in 2008 Victories

State	Legislation	Governor	House	Senate
AZ	Expansion of Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	Democrat	Republican	Republican
FL	Expansion and Improvement of Corporate Tax Credit (CTC) Scholarship Program	Republican	Republican	Republican
GA	Enactment of Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program	Republican	Republican	Republican
LA	Enactment of Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (New Orleans)	Republican	Democrat	Democrat
PA	Increase # of Eligible Businesses and Contribution Limits for EITC	Democrat	Democrat	Republican
UT	Expansion of Permanent Funding for Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	Republican	Republican	Republican
D.C.	Extension of Funding for D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program	Republican	Democrat	Democrat



At the annual REACH Foundation rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on May 15, 2008, children thanked Democratic and Republican lawmakers for their steadfast support of the EITC program.

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

From the Field

Growing Democratic support for private school choice in 2008

"In the last several years, there has been a remarkable rise in Democratic support for vouchers. Democrats have played an important role in more than half of recent school-choice successes. This is an important step forward for the school-choice movement."

- **National Review**, October 20, 2008¹

"When Florida passed a law in 2001 creating the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program for underprivileged students, all but one Democrat in the state legislature voted against it. Earlier this month, lawmakers extended the program – this time with the help of a full third of Democrats in the Legislature, including 13 of 25 members of the state's black caucus and every member of the Hispanic caucus."

- **The Wall Street Journal**, May 19, 2008²

"More than 30,000 children across Pennsylvania are benefiting from EITC scholarships, and countless numbers of children in public schools are benefiting from innovative programs that would have likely have gone unfunded. The EITC has accomplished what many in Pennsylvania have been advocating for years: to get the business community more involved in education. The EITC enables companies to support local nonprofit charities, at a minimal cost, instead of sending their tax dollars to Harrisburg. It's that simple."

- **Pennsylvania Democratic State Representative Dwight Evans**³

"It would be hypocritical of me not to recognize that there are other ideas outside the traditional public school system,' [District of Columbia Mayor Adrian] Fenty told the panel, chaired by Rep. Jose Serrano, D-N.Y. 'If someone is providing an excellent education to a child of the District of Columbia, they have the support of this administration.'"

- **Washington Examiner**, May 1, 2008⁴

"I know it may surprise some that I would support a school voucher program, but I am proud to do so – and I especially support the D.C. scholarships. Many here in Washington also favor this program: community and business leaders, educators, parents, and elected officials who are putting children first. ... Moms, dads, aunts, uncles, and other guardians in my community tell me that these programs are making a difference in their children's lives and giving them hope they have never had. I salute them for working to make the right choices for their children."

- **Marion Barry**, D.C. Councilman and Former Democratic Mayor, May 13, 2008⁵

"I have met with some of these children and know that they want to continue this program and benefit from educational opportunities that would otherwise be closed to them."

- **United States Senator Joseph Lieberman**, Independent Democrat, July 8, 2008.⁶

"'Every opponent I hear is always talking about monitoring the status quo,' said [State Representative Austin] Badon-D, New Orleans East's representative. 'They always talk about the money. They never say anything about the children and families.' Badon said the program is all about giving parents the choice to send their children to a quality school. 'What it will do is it will breed competition and competition is good,' Badon said."

- **WWL-TV**, June 5, 2008⁷

"I fundamentally believe that vouchers are simply one part of the entire educational pie. There is no surefire way to educate a child. We've seen public schools do a great job (I went to them from kindergarten through college) along with private schools, home schooling, charter schools and even online initiatives. This is the kind of innovation we need, not more efforts to prevent a worthy idea from moving forward."

- **Roland Martin**, Democratic Analyst, July 18, 2008⁸

Teachers Supporting School Choice

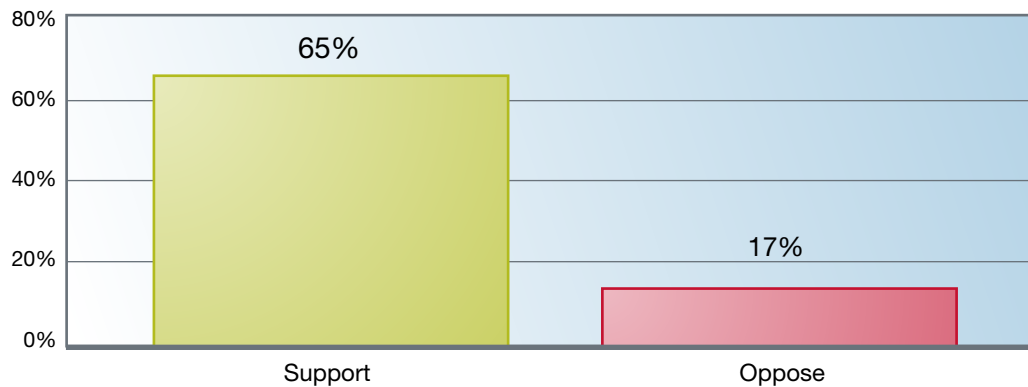
A common myth spread by opponents of school choice is that all teachers and other education professionals are opposed to vouchers and tax credit programs. This is simply not the case.

A fall 2008 *Education Next*/Harvard University poll found that 65 percent of public school teachers indicated support for tax credit programs that include both public and private schools.⁹ Forty-six percent of teachers — a plurality — support tax credit programs for parents who send their children to private schools.

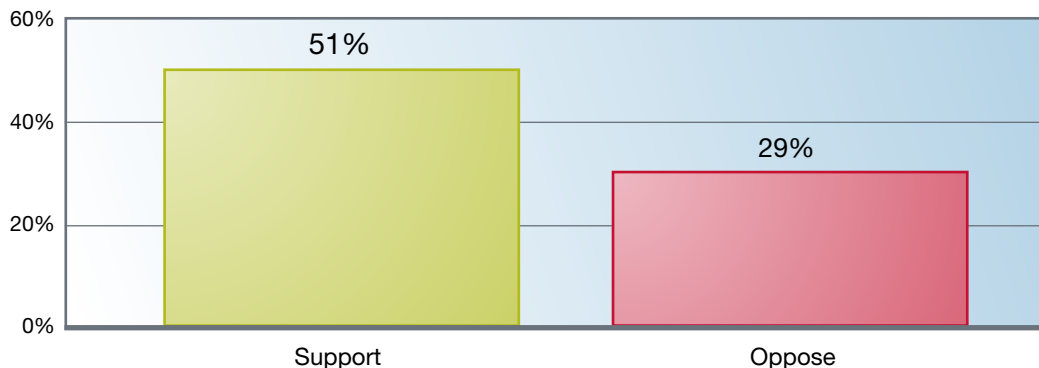
In addition to demonstrating teacher support for tax credit programs, the poll's results indicated that teachers' views on school vouchers are not cut and dried. A full 34 percent of public school teachers favor universal vouchers to bring competition to schools, while 21 percent "neither favor nor oppose." Fewer than half of teachers expressed opposition to vouchers.

Furthermore, the 2007 *Education Next* poll found that 51 percent of public school employees support allowing students in schools failing under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to transfer to private schools, compared to 29 percent who oppose it.¹⁰

Public School Teachers Strongly Support Tax Credit Programs



Public School Employees Support Adding Private School Choice to NCLB



School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

From the Field

Teachers voicing their support for school choice

“As a public school teacher, a lot of people assumed that I would just defend the status quo. But the reality is, I’ve been a supporter of school choice since before I started teaching. And as a teacher, I have come to realize that the system is broken and that children really do get left behind.”

- **David Casas**, Georgia state representative and public school teacher ¹¹

“Even though I regard my coworkers with the utmost respect and admiration, I knew my school was not the best place for my son.”

- **Lynette Estrada**, Florida public school teacher and parent of McKay Scholarship recipient ¹²

“I don’t think the enemy is educators or parents or public schools or private schools. The enemy is ignorance and poverty and hopelessness and despair.”

- **Doug Tuthill**, President of the Florida School Choice Fund and former head of Pinellas Teachers Union, September 12, 2008. ¹³

“Democratic representative Bill Heller—who as a public-school teacher worked with disabled students—joined the Florida legislature after the 2001 vote, but voted against expanding the program last year.... He voted for the final bill this year. ‘I wanted to go out and see what was happening to the kids on these scholarships. My district had 58, and I visited several of their schools and talked to parents,’ he says. ‘I saw that it was an alternative for a child who might not have been successful in a public school—not a means of operating a separate system of education.’”

- **National Review**, October 20, 2008 ¹⁴

Shown here with his mother, seventh grader Luis attends San Miguel School in Providence, Rhode Island, thanks to a scholarship provided by the Rhode Island Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit program.

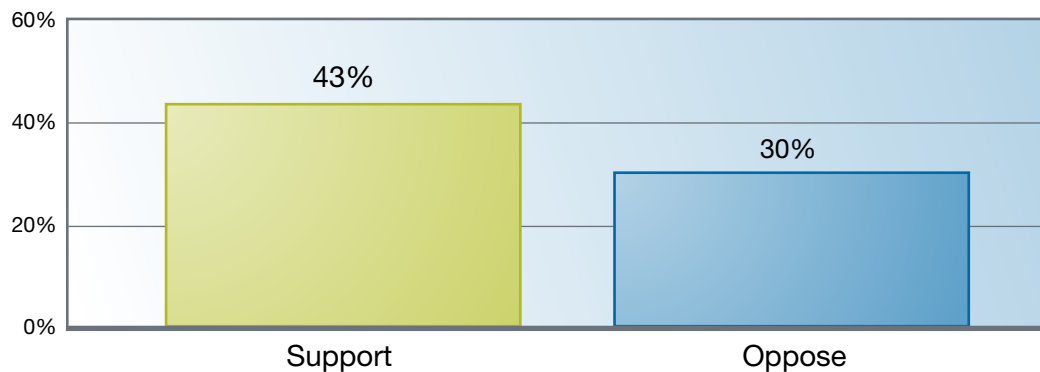


Public Support for School Choice

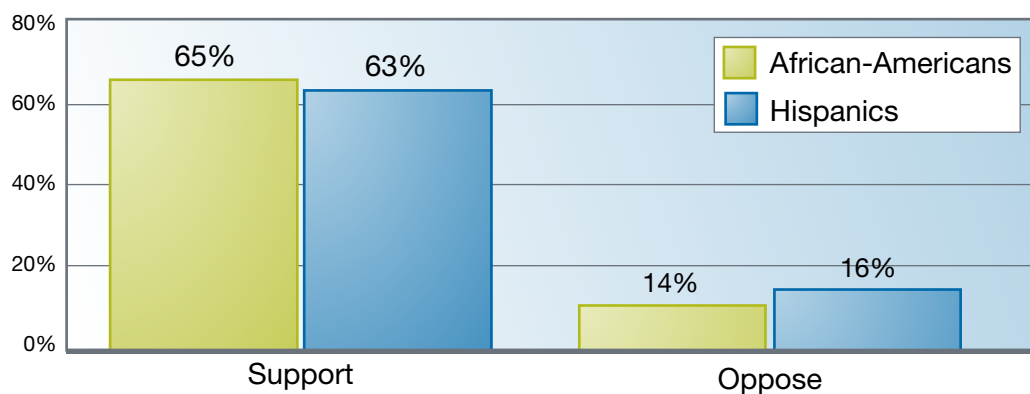
Polling at the national level in 2008 reveals strong public support for private school choice.

**School
Choice
Yearbook
2008-09**

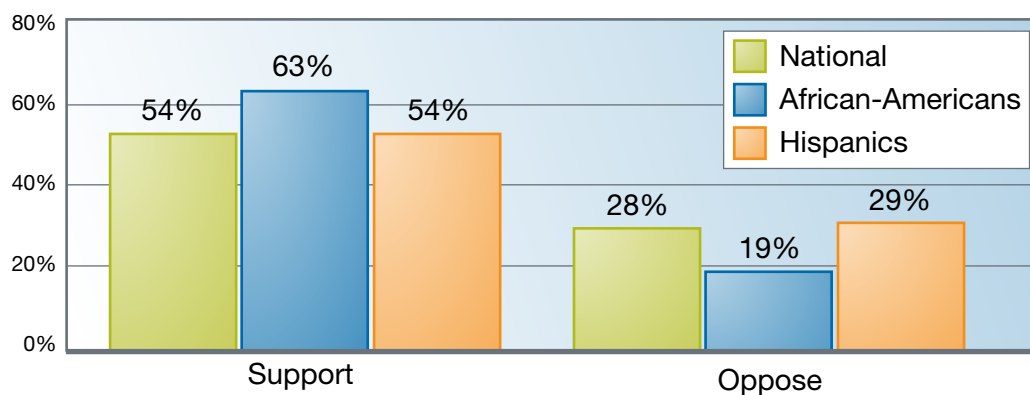
Americans Support Vouchers to Increase Educational Opportunities for Low-Income Students



African-Americans and Hispanics Support Vouchers for Low-Income Students



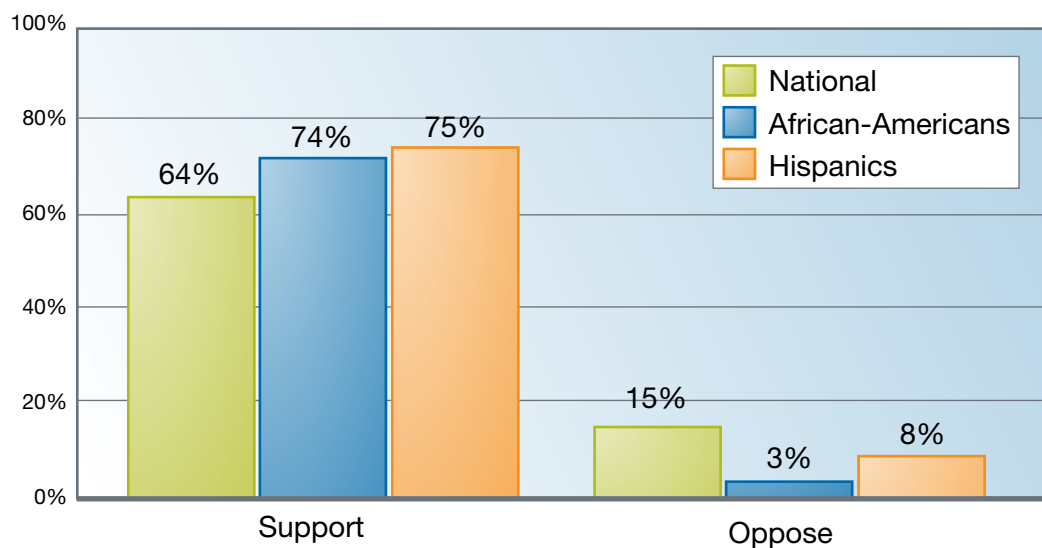
Americans Favor Tax Credit Programs Covering Private School Educational Expenses



National polling source: The 2008 *EducationNext*/Harvard PEPP Survey of Public Opinion¹⁵

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Americans Support Tax Credits for Public and Private Educational Expenses



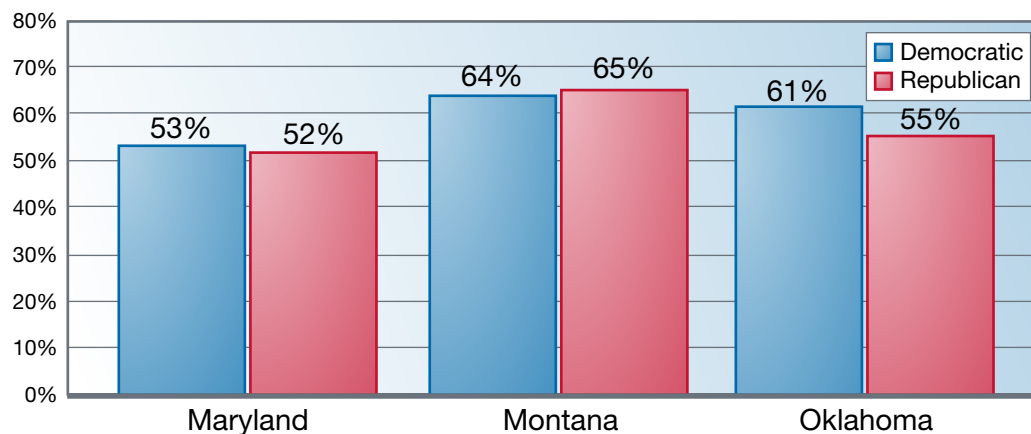
National polling source: The 2008 *EducationNext*/Harvard PEPG Survey of Public Opinion¹⁵

Polling conducted at the state level in 2008 also reveals solid support for school choice.

In Maryland, Montana, and Oklahoma, support for school choice crosses party lines.

- In Maryland, 53 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Republicans support scholarship tax credits.
- In Montana, 64 percent of Democrats and 65 percent of Republicans support scholarship tax credits; 55 percent of Democrats and 53 percent of Republicans support vouchers.
- In Oklahoma, 53 percent of Democrats and 54 percent of Republicans support school vouchers; 61 percent of Democrats and 55 percent of Republicans favor the recently proposed scholarship tax credit legislation.

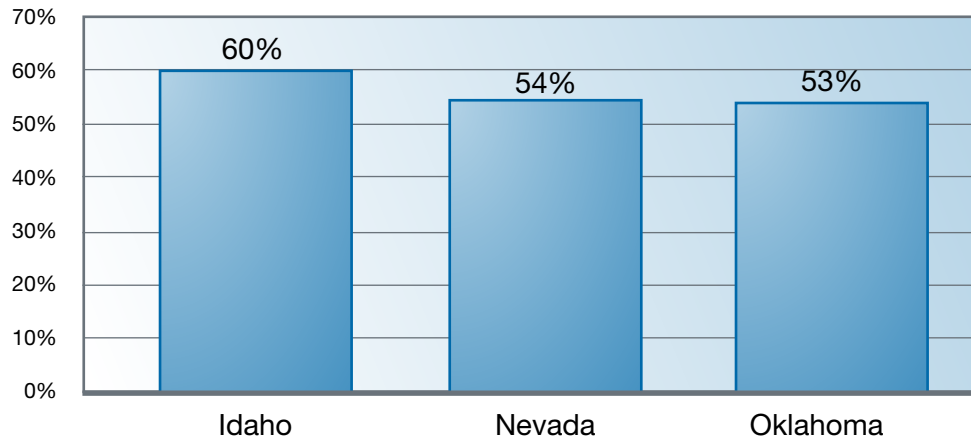
Support for Scholarship Tax Credits Crosses Party Lines



In Idaho, voters support private school choice.

- 60 percent of voters support vouchers.
- 57 percent of voters support corporate scholarship tax credits.

Voters in Idaho, Nevada, and Oklahoma Support Vouchers



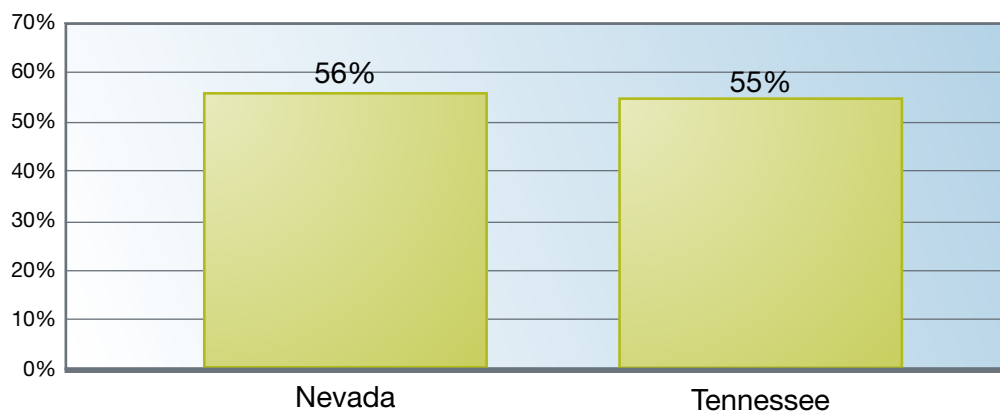
In Nevada, voters support private school choice.

- 54 percent of voters support school vouchers.
- 56 percent of voters favor special education scholarships.
- 53 percent of voters favor a scholarship tax credit program.

In Tennessee, voters support private school choice.

- 52 percent of voters support corporate scholarship tax credits.
- 55 percent of voters support special needs scholarships.

Voters in Nevada and Tennessee Support Special Needs Scholarships



State polling source: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice¹⁶



Research

2008 School Choice Research Recap

Public School Students with Special Needs Benefit from Vouchers

Vouchers for students with special needs have a positive impact on the academic achievement of students who remain in public schools, according to the first study to measure the effect of a special needs voucher program.¹⁷

The study, conducted by Jay Greene and Marcus Winters of the New York-based Manhattan Institute, looked specifically at the effects of Florida's McKay Scholarship Program on students with special needs who remain in public schools.

The study found that public school students with special needs who were exposed to more nearby options because of the McKay program posted higher math and reading scores than their peers in other public schools who had fewer options nearby. Students who benefited the most were those with a Specific Learning Disability (SLD)—the mildest learning disability. Students with SLDs comprise the highest percentage of students with disabilities in Florida and around the country.

Specifically, in the 2004-05 school year, the average public school student with an SLD scored 16.31 scale points higher in math and nearly 24 points higher in reading on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) than he or she would have without the McKay program. Students with the most severe disabilities were “neither helped nor harmed by increased exposure to the McKay program.”¹⁸

Milwaukee Evaluation Reports Reveal High Parental Satisfaction and Taxpayer Savings

In Milwaukee, prominent education researchers have started work on what is the “most comprehensive evaluation of a school choice program ever attempted.”¹⁹ Early indicators from the study, which examines the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), reveal taxpayer savings statewide and high parental satisfaction. In February 2008, the School Choice Demonstration Project (SCDP), an education research center in the University of Arkansas’ Department of Education Reform, released its first set of reports providing baseline data for a five-year evaluation of the MPCP. Some of the initial findings include:

Fiscal impact — MPCP produces growing taxpayer savings “from \$1.6 million in FY94 to \$24.6 million in FY07 and \$31.9 million in FY08.”²⁰

School supply — The supply of private schools increased in response to a voucher-induced increase in demand. Of the 97 schools participating in the MPCP that responded to the SCDP survey, 31 were created after the establishment of the MPCP. Of these schools, 54.8 percent cite the MPCP as a major factor in their decision to open a school, while an additional 16.1 percent cite MPCP as a minor factor.²¹

Parental satisfaction — Overall parental satisfaction was found to be very high, particularly among parents with children enrolled in MPCP schools. Fifty-three percent of MPCP parents would give their child’s current school an “A,” compared to 34 percent of MPS parents and 19 percent of average American parents.²² In particular, “MPCP parents are most satisfied with what is taught in school, school safety, and the amount their child has learned.”²³

Nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau Finds Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Saves Local Taxpayer Dollars

A November 2008 report by the nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau found that the MPCP is saving local taxpayer dollars in 2008-09. Specifically, the MPCP per-pupil property tax levy is \$235 less than the per-pupil levy for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). When all state and local funding is included, the MPCP costs \$6,607 per pupil, while the per-pupil cost for MPS is \$13,468.²⁴

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Milwaukee Vouchers Boost Graduation Rates

A study released in May by School Choice Wisconsin demonstrates that students participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) graduate at higher rates than students in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS).²⁵ University of Minnesota researcher and report author John Warren found that if the MPS graduation rate had equaled that of MPCP students for the classes of 2003 through 2007, the number of public school students graduating in those five years would have been nearly 20 percent higher—representing an additional 2,976 students. Warren acknowledges that his findings are “general” rather than exact and that they do not address the question of whether or not the higher graduation rates in MPCP schools are directly caused by school choice. This question is being addressed by the ongoing five-year longitudinal study comparing student progress in MPS with progress in MPCP schools, which will enable a precise measure of graduation rate differences.

D.C. Vouchers Increase Reading Scores; Parents Highly Satisfied

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s second-year evaluation of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, students who were offered a scholarship showed meaningful academic improvement in reading.²⁶ Particularly, three subgroups of students—88 percent of the study sample—demonstrated statistically significant achievement gains in reading. The report also found the following:

- Parents are highly satisfied with the schools they chose. Seventy-six percent of parents who were offered a voucher gave their child’s school a grade of an “A” or a “B,” compared with the 63 percent of parents who were not offered a voucher.
- Parents of children offered a scholarship view their child’s school as significantly less dangerous than do parents whose children were not offered a scholarship.
- On average, students offered a scholarship attend smaller schools and have smaller class sizes.

Denisha Merriweather, an award-winning student and recipient of a Step Up for Students scholarship in Florida, speaks at a November 10, 2008 rally in Jacksonville.



State Analysis Finds Florida's Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program Is a Cost-Saver

A legislatively required fiscal analysis of the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program found that in fiscal year 2007-08, \$1.49 in education spending was saved for every dollar of tax credits awarded to businesses that donated funds to Scholarship Funding Organizations. Additionally, the report concluded that expanding the program's tax credit cap to meet scholarship demands would save even more money.²⁷

Goldwater Institute: Florida Reforms Lead the Way

A report by the Arizona-based Goldwater Institute highlighted Florida's education reform efforts and urged other states to adopt similar policies.²⁸ The authors argue that the state's portfolio of reforms—such as statewide curriculum standards, statewide standardized assessments, consequences for failing schools, and school choice programs—have resulted in higher student achievement. To make their points, the authors drew attention to improvements on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading test. For example, Florida's fourth-grade gains have exceeded national averages by more than two times since 1998. And in 2007, Florida's average NAEP reading score for Hispanic fourth-graders surpassed the average NAEP fourth-grade reading scores of all students in 15 states, including Arizona. A similar pattern for African-American students emerged: Over the past 10 years, eighth-graders have shown gains more than eight times the national average.

Ohio Program Demonstrates That Competition Works

Ohio's Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarship Program is a successful catalyst for improving the performance of failing public schools, according to a study released in August by the Indiana-based Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and cosponsored by the Alliance.²⁹ The study found that in failing schools serving voucher-eligible children, math and reading scores improved as a result of voucher competition. Furthermore, no negative effects were detected for public schools—a finding that significantly undercuts opponents' arguments that school choice harms public schools.

Download the full reports at: AllianceForSchoolChoice.org/ResearchResources

Education in America: A Nation Still at Risk

This past year marked the 25th anniversary of the landmark federal report, “A Nation at Risk.” The report was a stinging indictment of an education system that failed to educate our children. “A Nation at Risk” was supposed to be a call to action, but 25 years later and despite massive spending increases, we remain at risk.

Education spending has skyrocketed.

Public school per-pupil expenditures increased 128 percent between 1970 and 2005, when adjusted for inflation, and 1,059 percent in unadjusted dollars.³⁰

Student achievement remains mediocre.

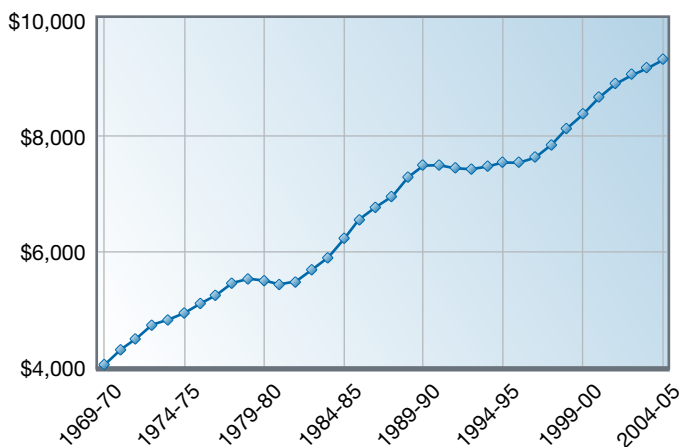
Reading achievement for 17-year-olds has declined since 1984, remained the same for 13-year-olds, and slightly increased for 9-year-olds.³¹

Today, only 17 percent of low-income fourth-graders are proficient in reading, while 50 percent are below basic. And a mere 15 percent of low-income eighth graders are proficient in math, while 45 percent are below basic.³²

While just 14 percent of African-American fourth-graders and 17 percent of Hispanic fourth-graders are proficient in reading, 54 percent and 50 percent, respectively, are below basic. And in math, a mere 11 percent of African-American eighth-graders and 15 percent of Hispanic eighth-graders are proficient, while 53 percent and 45 percent, respectively, are below basic.³³

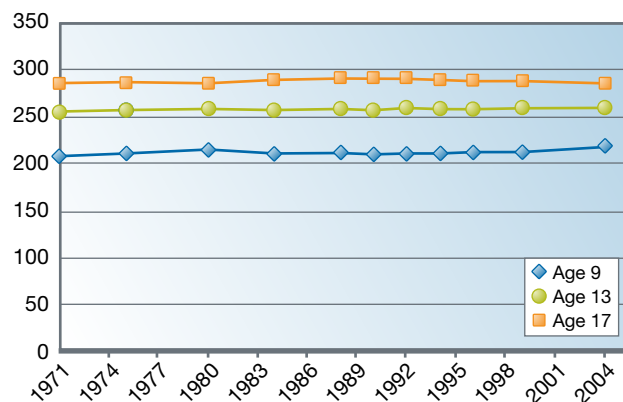
More than 5 million students are attending more than 10,000 schools that are failing under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.³⁴

Per-Pupil Public School Expenditures



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 2007 (NCES 2008-022), Table 171.

NAEP Long-Term Trend in Reading



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, NAEP Long-Term Trend Reading Scale Scores.

Nearly one-third of students drop out of high school.

An estimated 1.2 million students failed to graduate from high school in 2008. That is nearly 7,000 dropouts a day or one dropout every 26 seconds.³⁵

An estimated 45 percent of African-American students and 42 percent of Hispanic students do not graduate from high school, compared to 22 percent of white students.³⁶

More than one in 10 high schools are considered to be “dropout factories,” meaning no more than 60 percent of ninth-graders make it to 12th grade.³⁷

Nearly 50 percent of children in our nation's largest cities do not graduate from high school.³⁸

American students are behind in international rankings.

American 15-year-olds scored below average in science when compared to students in the 29 other countries that are part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In math, our students are outperformed by their peers in 23 other countries.³⁹

Low achievement and stagnant graduation rates have lifelong consequences for children and our nation's economy.

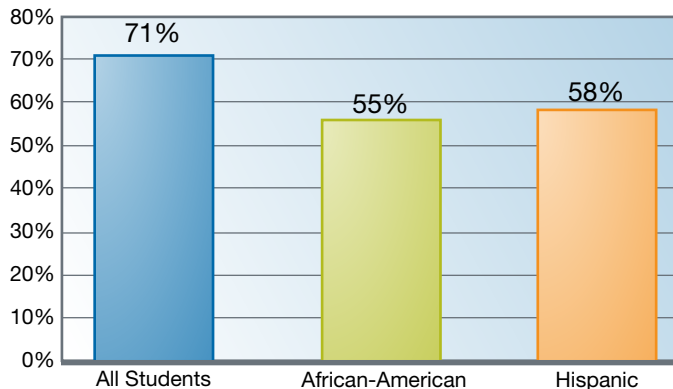
The income of high school dropouts is less than two-thirds of that of high school graduates and one-third of the income of those with a bachelor's degree.⁴⁰

“Only college graduates have experienced growth in real median weekly earnings since 1979. In contrast, high school dropouts have seen their real median weekly earnings decline by about 23.4 percent.”⁴¹

If high school dropouts from the “Class of 2008 had graduated, the nation's economy would have benefited from an additional \$319 billion in income over their lifetimes.”⁴²

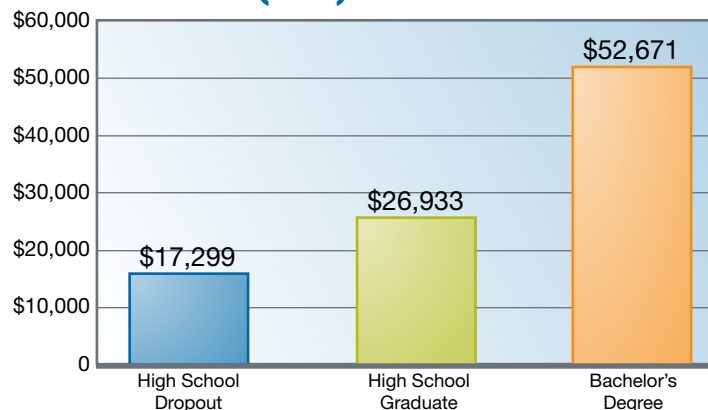
Seventy-five percent of state prison inmates and 59 percent of federal inmates did not complete high school.⁴³

Class of 2005 Graduation Rates



Source: Editorial Projects in Education, *Education Week*, Diplomas Count 2008

Average Income by Educational Attainment (2005)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Educational Attainment in the United States: 2006*, Table 9, Income in 2005 by educational attainment of the population 18 years of age and older.



School Choice Programs in the United States

Arizona	Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	38
	Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	39
	Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities	40
	Displaced Pupils Choice Grant Program	41
Florida	John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities	42
	Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program	43
Georgia	Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	44
	Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program	45
Iowa	Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	46
Louisiana	Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program	47
Ohio	Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	48
	Autism Scholarship Program	49
	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	50
Pennsylvania	Educational Improvement Tax Credit	51
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit	52
Utah	Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	53
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	54
Washington, D.C.	D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program	55

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Most STOs give to students solely based on financial need, while others benefit students in a specific location or private school system.

Saving taxpayer dollars

A report by The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice estimates that Arizona's individual tax credit scholarship saved a net \$18 million in state and local taxpayer funds between 1999 and 2006.⁴⁵

Arizona

Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit

Program Type: Individual scholarship tax credit

Student Eligibility:

- None specified in law
- May be determined by School Tuition Organization (STO)
- Private school students also eligible

School Tuition Organization (STO)

Requirements:

- Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships
- Make scholarships available for more than one school
- Annually report to the state data on accepted contributions, grants awarded, and participating schools

School Requirements: Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements

Scholarship Cap: None

Tax Credit Value: 100 percent of donation

Donor Tax Credit Cap:

- \$500 single
- \$1,000 married couple

Statewide Cap: None

Year Enacted: 1997

Data Update**44

Scholarships Awarded: 27,153 (2007-08)

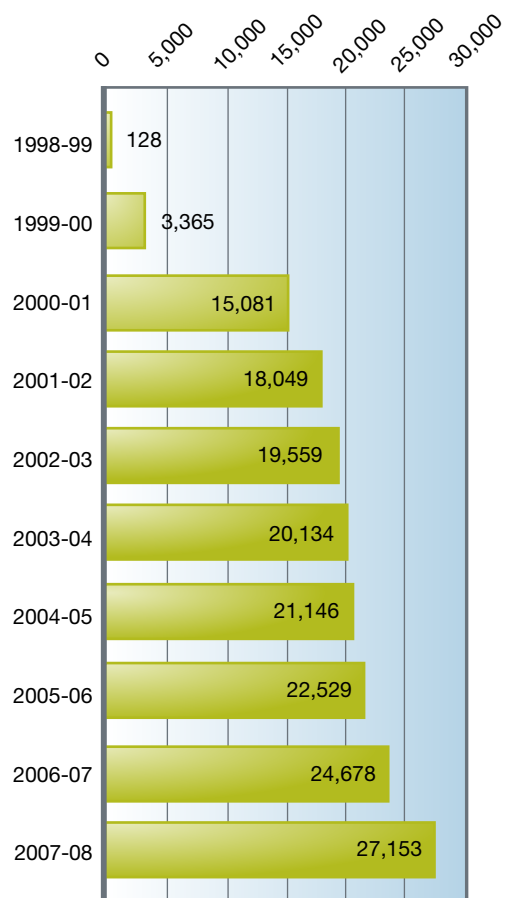
Average Scholarship: \$1,788 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 359 (2007-08)

STOs Operating: 55 (2007)

Total Donations: \$54,304,282 (2007)

Student Participation



*2008-09 data not available at time of publication

Arizona

Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit

Program Type: Corporate scholarship tax credit

Student Eligibility:

- Family income cannot exceed 185 percent of the federal free or reduced-price lunch program limit (\$72,557 for a family of four in 2008)
- Attended public school the previous year or entering kindergarten

School Tuition Organization (STO) Requirements:

- Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships
- Make scholarships available for more than one school
- Annually submit to the state:
 - Data on accepted contributions, grants awarded, and participating schools
 - Proof of independent review of financial statements by a certified public accountant

School Requirements:

- Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements
- Require teachers to be fingerprinted
- Annually administer and make publicly available the aggregate results of nationally norm-referenced, standardized achievement test

Scholarship Cap:

- \$4,400 - grades K-8
- \$5,700 - grades 9-12
- Limits increase by \$100 each year

Tax Credit Value: 100 percent of donation

Donor Tax Credit Cap: None

Statewide Cap:

- \$14.4 million (FY 2009)
- 20 percent annual increase until FY 2011

Year Enacted: 2006

Data Update*⁴⁶

Scholarships Awarded: 1,947 (2007-08)

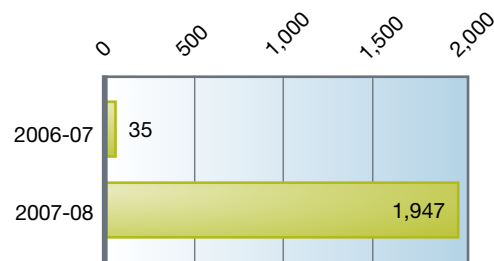
Average Scholarship: \$2,374 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 156 (2007-08)

STOs Operating: 16 (FY 2008)

Total Donations: \$11,983,000 (FY 2008)

Student Participation



*2008-09 data not available at time of publication

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Helping low-income children

A report by the Arizona School Tuition Organization Association found that the “[a]verage corporate tax-credit scholarship recipients came from families with annual incomes of \$28,458 in the 2006-07 school year, and \$35,533 during the 2007-08 school year.”⁴⁷

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

In their own words

“Being able to use this scholarship... has changed our lives—this school brings out a different child in Lexie.”

— *Andrea Weck, parent of scholarship recipient, Lexie*⁴⁹

Arizona

Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities

Program Type: Special needs voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Attended public school the previous year
- Issued an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

School Requirements: Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements

Scholarship Cap:

- Whichever is less:
 - The cost of the chosen school's tuition and fees or actual per-pupil cost, whichever is greater, or
 - The amount prescribed for the particular student under his or her IEP

Enrollment Cap: None

Program Funding: \$2.5 million per year

Year Enacted: 2006

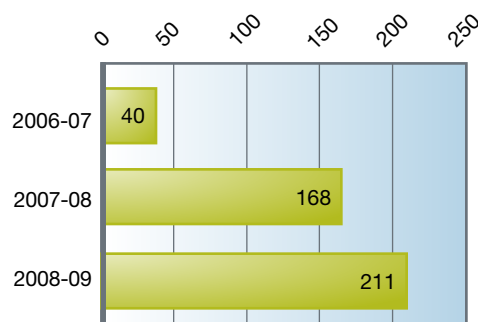
Data Update⁴⁸

Scholarships Awarded: 211 (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$9,308 (2008-09)

Schools Participating: 54 (2007-08)

Student Participation



Arizona

Displaced Pupils Choice Grant Program

Program Type: Foster child voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Part of foster care system at any time before high school graduation
- Private school students also eligible

School Requirements:

- Register with Arizona Department of Education
- Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements

Scholarship Cap: \$5,000

Enrollment Cap: 500

Program Funding: \$2.5 million per year

Year Enacted: 2006

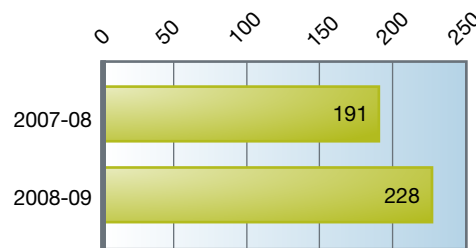
Data Update⁵⁰

Scholarships Awarded: 228 (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$3,929 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 107 (2008-09)

Student Participation



School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Did you know?

The Displaced Pupils Choice Grant Program is the only publicly funded private school choice program in the nation targeted to children in foster care.

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

In their own words

"At [Lucas's] school he is now reaching his full academic and emotional potential. He gets the extra individual help he needs and is able to flourish."

– Lynette Estrada, parent of scholarship recipient, Lucas⁵²

Improving public schools

"[T]he evidence from Florida suggests that vouchers improve the education that public schools offer to disabled kids. Expanding these programs across the nation could substantially improve the lives of the nation's nearly 7 million disabled students."

– Marcus Winters and Jay Greene, authors of Manhattan Institute study on McKay scholarship program⁵³

Florida

John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program

Program Type: Special needs voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Attended a Florida public school the previous year
- Have Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Children of U.S. military personnel transferring are exempt from prior year public school attendance requirement

School Requirements:

- Be approved by state department of education
- Submit to the state annual sworn compliance reports regarding all local and state health and safety codes
- Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d
- Teachers and other school personnel working with scholarship recipients must have federal background check
- Teachers must have a bachelor's degree, three years of teaching experience, or special expertise
- Schools in operation less than three years must obtain a surety bond or letter of credit to cover value of the scholarship payments for one quarter
- Annually report student's progress to parents

Enrollment Cap: None

Scholarship Cap:

- Whichever is less:
 - Amount of public school funding student would have received, or
 - Selected private school's tuition and fees

Program Funding:

- No specific program appropriation
- \$131.3 million spent in 2007-08 school year

Year Enacted: 1999

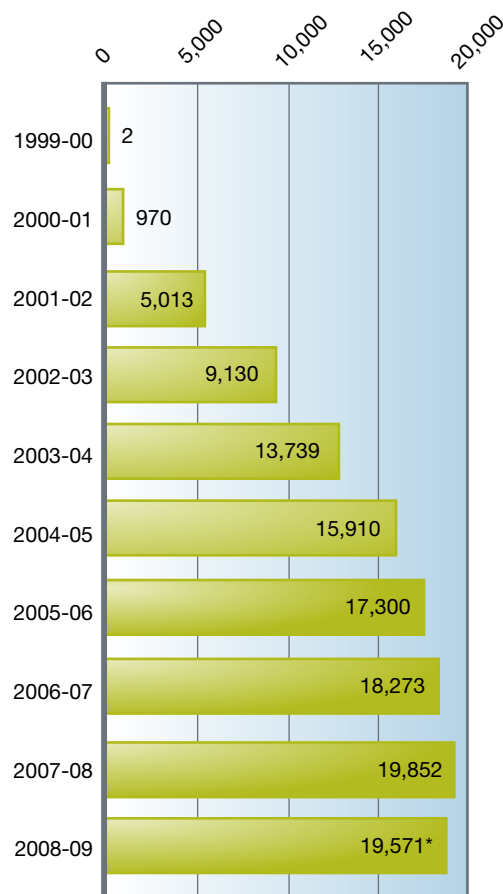
Data Update⁵¹

Scholarships Awarded: 19,571* (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$7,295 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 873 (2008-09)

Student Participation



*Number expected to increase

Florida

Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Program Type: Corporate scholarship tax credit

Student Eligibility:

- Qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program (\$39,220 for a family of four in 2008)
- Attended a Florida public school the previous year or entering kindergarten or first grade

Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) Requirements:

- Use at least 97 percent of donations for scholarships
- SFOs with less than three years worth of audits must use 100 percent of donations for scholarships
- Make scholarships available for more than one school
- Submit to the state:
 - Financial and compliance audit performed by certified public accountant
 - Quarterly reports on number of scholarship recipients and participating schools

School Requirements:

- Be approved by state department of education
- Submit to the state annual sworn compliance reports regarding all local and state health and safety codes
- Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d
- Teachers and other school personnel working with scholarship recipients must have federal background check
- Teachers must have a bachelor's degree, three years of teaching experience, or special expertise
- Schools in operation less than three years must obtain a surety bond or letter of credit to cover value of the scholarship payments for one quarter
- Scholarship students must take a nationally recognized norm-referenced test or the state public school assessment

Scholarship Cap:

- \$3,950 for private school scholarship
- \$500 scholarship covering transportation to another public school

Tax Credit Value: 100 percent of donation

Donor Tax Credit Cap: 75 percent of state income tax liability

Statewide Cap: \$118 million (increased from \$88 million in 2008)

Year Enacted: 2001

Data Update⁵⁴

Scholarships Awarded: 22,272* (2008-09)

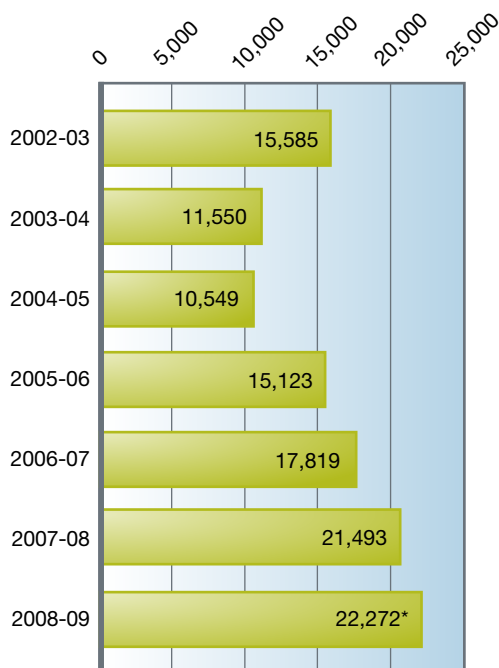
Average Scholarship: \$3,417 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 966 (2008-09)

SFOs Operating: 3 (FY 2008)

Total Donations: \$85,611,140 (FY 2008)

Student Participation



*The Florida School Choice Fund estimates 24,000 participants as of January 2009.

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Did you know?

Florida's Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program is popularly known as "Step Up for Students."

Saving taxpayer dollars

A legislatively required fiscal analysis of the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program found that in fiscal year 2007-08, \$1.49 in education spending was saved for every dollar of tax credits awarded to businesses that donated funds to Scholarship Funding Organizations. Additionally, the report concluded that expanding the program's tax credit cap to meet scholarship demands would save even more money.⁵⁵

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

In their own words

“It always disdained me that at [Jonathan’s] previous school they told me he would go to school for 14 years and would only get a certificate of attendance. Here he is getting extra attention and seems to be doing very well. I always believed he would be able to function at a higher level. His grades are A’s and B’s.”

– Marie Leon,
parent of special
needs scholarship
recipient, Jonathan⁵⁷

Georgia

Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program

Program Type: Special needs voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Attended a Georgia public school the previous year
- Have Individualized Education Program (IEP)

School Requirements:

- Notify state regarding intention to participate
- Demonstrate financial viability
- Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d
- Comply with state health and safety requirements
- Be accredited or in the process of becoming accredited
- Teachers must have bachelor’s degree or three years’ experience in education or health
- Provide parents with teachers’ credentials
- Report to parents and state regarding student’s academic progress

Scholarship Cap:

- Whichever is less:
 - Amount of public school funding student would have received, or
 - Selected private school’s tuition and fees

Enrollment Cap: None

Program Funding: \$5.9 million (2008-09)

Year Enacted: 2007

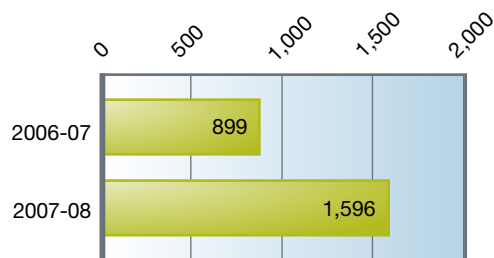
Data Update⁵⁶

Scholarships Awarded: 1,596 (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$6,331 (2008-09)

Schools Participating: 139 (2008-09)

Student Participation



Georgia

Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program

Program Type: Corporate and individual scholarship tax credit

Student Eligibility: Attended a Georgia public school in previous year or entering pre-kindergarten or kindergarten

Student Scholarship Organization (SSO) Requirements:

- Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships
- Make scholarships available for more than one school
- Annually submit to the state:
 - Data on accepted contributions and tax credits approved
 - Independent review of financial statements by certified public accountant

School Requirements:

- Be accredited or in the process of becoming accredited
- Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Comply with all state private school regulations, including health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap: Tuition and fees

Tax Credit Value: 100 percent of donation

Donor Tax Credit Cap:

- \$1,000 single
- \$2,500 married couple
- 75 percent of corporation's state income tax liability

Statewide Cap: \$50 million

Year Enacted: 2008

Data Update⁵⁸

Scholarships Awarded: NA
(New Program)

Average Scholarship: NA

Schools Participating: NA

SSOs Operating: 10 (FY 2009)

Total Donations: NA

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

Saving taxpayer dollars

Using a scenario nearly identical to the new Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program enacted in May 2008, a Friedman Foundation report estimated the state's savings at \$5.9 million a year. Additionally, it estimated local school district savings of more than \$94 million.⁵⁹

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Award-winning advocate

“Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education co-founder Sara Eide has been recognized as the 2007 advocate of the year by the national nonprofit Alliance for School Choice. Eide has led public outreach efforts that resulted in the passage and expansion of Iowa’s Individual School Tuition Tax Credit Program.”

- Des Moines Register⁶¹

Iowa

Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit

Program Type: Individual scholarship tax credit

Student Eligibility:

- Family income must not exceed 300 percent of federal poverty guideline (\$63,600 for a family of four in 2008)
- Private school students also eligible

School Tuition Organization (STO)

Requirements:

- Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships
- Make scholarships available for more than one school
- Annual review of financial statements by public accounting firm
- Submit data to the state on accepted contributions, grants awarded, and participating schools

School Requirements:

- Be accredited
- Comply with federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Iowa Chapter 216
- Comply with state health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap: School’s tuition

Tax Credit Value: 65 percent of donation

Donor Tax Credit Cap: None

Statewide Cap: \$7.5 million

Year Enacted: 2006

Data Update⁶⁰

Scholarships Awarded: 8,737 (2008-09)

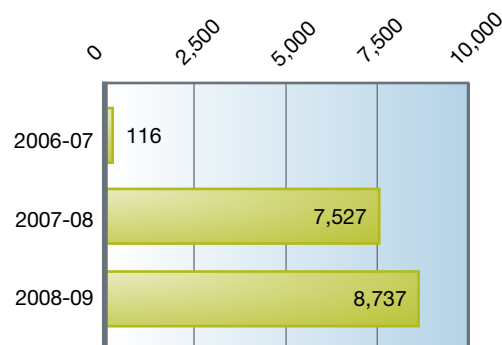
Average Scholarship: \$856 (2008-09)

Schools Participating: 156 (2008-09)

STOs Operating: 11 (2008)

Total Donations: \$9,538,443 (2008)

Student Participation



Louisiana

Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program

Program Type: Means-tested and failing schools voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of federal poverty guideline (\$53,000 for a family of four in 2008)
- Entering grades K-3
- Attended an underperforming public school in previous year or entering kindergarten
- One additional grade level of eligibility will be added each year

School Requirements:

- Be approved by the state to participate
- Comply with state nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements
- Administer state exams required under the Louisiana School and District System to scholarship recipients
- Schools in operation less than two years cannot have more than 20 percent of students receiving scholarships
- Submit to the state an annual independent financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant

Scholarship Cap:

- Whichever is less:
 - 90 percent of state and local per-pupil funding (\$7,138 for 2008-09), or
 - Tuition, fees, and costs associated with testing

Enrollment Cap: None

Program Funding: Capped at \$10 million (2008-09)

Year Enacted: 2008

Data Update⁶²

Scholarships Awarded: 640 (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$3,919 (2008-09)

Schools Participating: 35 (2008-09)

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

In their own words

“I want to live in New Orleans...But had I not felt they could attend strong schools here, my kids would still be in Las Vegas.”

– Dyanne Mack, parent of scholarship recipient and former Hurricane Katrina evacuee⁶³

Award winners

In 2008, the Alliance honored New Orleans Democratic Sen. Ann Duplessis and Rep. Austin Badon for their work in authoring the legislation that created this new program.

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

“As Cleveland school choice parents, we must speak for the children: putting their educational needs first and foremost, and in doing so we speak for an educated nation. School choice in Cleveland can no longer take the back seat on the bus. We need to take the wheel and promote school choice for all children.”

– Christine Suma, parent of scholarship recipient.^{64a}

Ohio

Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

Program Type: Means-preferenced voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Students living in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- In grades K-8 when first applying
- Priority given to students living below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$42,400 for a family of four in 2008)
- Scholarship may continue throughout high school
- Private school students also eligible

School Requirements:

- Be registered to participate and chartered by the Ohio Department of Education
- Meet state minimum standards for chartered non-public schools, including administering the Ohio Graduation Test
- Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap:

- 90 percent of \$3,450 for low-income students (\$3,150)
- 75 percent of \$3,450 for other students (\$2,587.50)

Enrollment Cap: None

Program Funding: \$18 million (2008-09)

Year Enacted: 1995

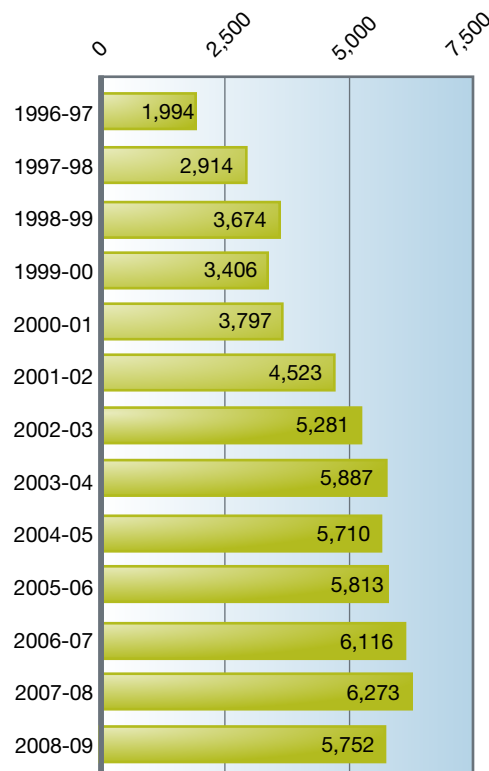
Data Update⁶⁴

Scholarships Awarded: 5,752 (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$2,894 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 43 (2008-09)

Student Participation



Ohio

Autism Scholarship Program

Program Type: Special needs voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Student must be identified as autistic through assigned school district
- Must be assigned an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Private school students also eligible

School Requirements:

- Register with the state
- Demonstrate fiscal soundness
- Have properly credentialed staff
- In operation one full year
- Have adequate liability, property and casualty insurance certified by a certified public accountant
- Obtain surety bond or letter of credit to cover value of scholarships
- Teachers and other staff working with children must undergo background checks
- Comply with state nondiscrimination and health and safety codes
- Provide regular student progress reports to parents and school

Scholarship Cap: \$20,000

Enrollment Cap: None

Program Funding:

- No specific appropriation
- \$15.6 million spent in 2007-08

Year Enacted: 2003

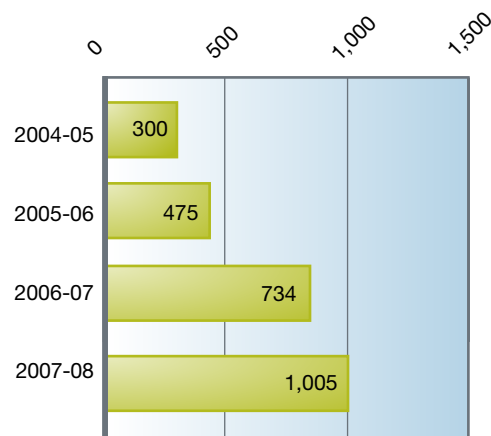
Data Update*⁶⁵

Scholarships Awarded: 1,005 (2007-08)

Average Scholarship: \$15,500 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 200 (2008-09)

Student Participation



School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

In their own words

“Any parent I’ve talked to who uses the scholarship is satisfied. If the parents are happy and the kids are improving, that’s what it’s all about.”

- Doug Krinsky,
parent of scholarship recipient⁶⁶

In their own words

“I think this is a great model.... I’ve been in touch with parents in other states who are desperate for something like this.”

- Lori Peacock,
parent of scholarship recipient⁶⁷

*2008-09 data not available at time of publication

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Persistent reform

“Successful charter schools and private-school vouchers provide options for families whose children are stuck in failing public schools but who can’t afford private schools. Perhaps most important, given that the majority of Ohio’s children remain in public schools, is that persistent reform efforts and the availability of other options have driven public schools to strive for improvement as never before.”

– *Columbus Dispatch*, November 9, 2008⁶⁹

Improving public schools

An August 2008 report from The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice found that competition from the EdChoice program improved academic achievement in public schools.⁷⁰

Ohio

Educational Choice Scholarship Program

Program Type: Failing schools voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Current public school students assigned to a school that has been in Academic Watch or Academic Emergency for two years of a three-year period
- Students scheduled to enter kindergarten in one of these schools also qualify
- Priority is given to returning and low-income applicants

School Requirements:

- Be chartered by the Ohio Department of Education
- Meet state minimum standards for chartered non-public schools, including administering the Ohio Graduation Test
- Administer state tests in grades 3-8
- Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap:

- \$4,500 – grades K-8
- \$5,300 – grades 9-12
- Scholarship must be accepted as full tuition for students living under 200 percent of federal poverty guideline

Enrollment Cap: 14,000

Program Funding:

- No specific appropriation
- \$25.5 million spent in 2007-08

Year Enacted: 2005

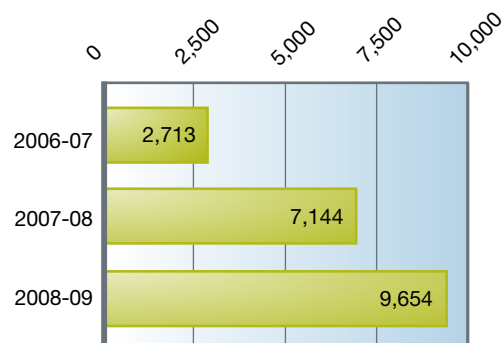
Data Update⁶⁸

Scholarships Awarded: 9,654 (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$3,564 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: 312 (2008-09)

Student Participation



Pennsylvania

Educational Improvement Tax Credit

Program Type: Corporate scholarship tax credit

Student Eligibility:

- Family income cannot exceed \$50,000, with an additional \$10,000 allowed for each additional dependent
- Private school students also eligible

Scholarship Organization (SO)

Requirements:

- Use at least 80 percent of contributions for scholarships
- Make scholarships available for more than one school
- Submit to the state an annual report detailing donations received and scholarships awarded

School Requirements:

- Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Teachers and other employees working with children must undergo background checks
- Meet state health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap: Tuition and fees

Tax Credit Value:

- 75 percent of one-year donation
- 90 percent of two-year donation

Donor Tax Credit Cap: \$300,000

Statewide Cap: \$44.7 million

Year Enacted: 2001

Data Update*⁷¹

Scholarships Awarded: 43,764 (2007-08)

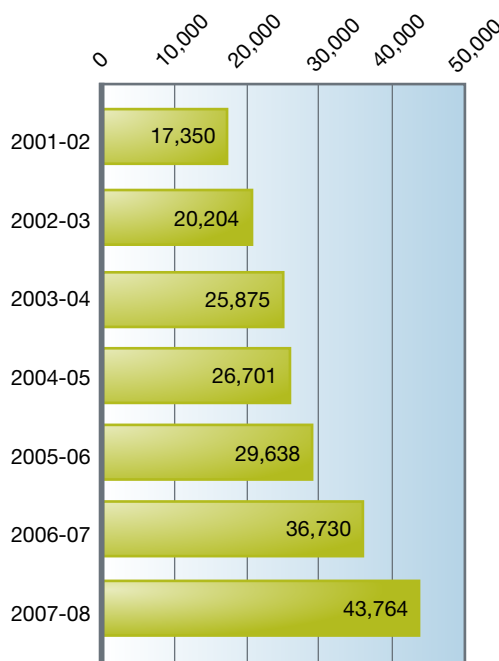
Average Scholarship: \$1,022 (2007-08)

Schools Participating: NA

SOs Operating: 209 (2007-08)

Total Donations: \$48,093,312 (FY 2008)

Student Participation



*2008-09 data not available at time of publication

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Did you know?

The EITC program also provides \$22.3 million in tax credits for donations to Educational Improvement Organizations, which support programs in local public schools, and \$8 million in credits for a pre-kindergarten scholarship program.

Saving taxpayer dollars

The Pennsylvania-based Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives estimates that if all the children receiving scholarships between the 2001-02 school year and 2006-07 school year attended public school, it would have cost the state an additional \$1.5 billion over those years.⁷²

In their own words

"We feel fortunate that we are able to send our four children to such a great school. This would not be possible without the EITC program. Our 7-year-old quadruplets attend Mother of Sorrows Catholic School in Murraysville. We chose M.O.S.S. because of the small school setting and spiritual atmosphere. As parents, we feel that M.O.S.S. has a strong partnership with parents and families. ... Thanks to M.O.S.S. and EITC, our children are off to a great start." - Mrs. Marcoz⁷³

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

In their own words

“St. Raphael’s saw a struggling but brilliant student and gave her the opportunity to realize her full potential. This wouldn’t have been possible without tuition assistance, and for that I am just so thankful. Amelia’s recent report card was very encouraging. I have so much hope for all of my children, and I am glad Amelia found a school that has allowed her to truly blossom.”

- Genesis Kah, parent of scholarship recipient, Amelia⁷⁵

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit

Program Type: Corporate scholarship tax credit

Student Eligibility:

- Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$53,000 for a family of four in 2008)
- Other criteria determined by Scholarship Granting Organization
- Private school students also eligible

Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) Requirements:

- Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships
- Provide annual report to state detailing: number and value of scholarships awarded; ZIP codes of recipients; and criteria used to award scholarships

School Requirements:

- Comply with federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination
- Teachers must have bachelor’s degrees
- Teachers must undergo background check
- Meet state health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap: None

Tax Credit Value:

- 75 percent of one-year donation
- 90 percent of two-year donation

Donor Tax Credit Cap: \$100,000

Statewide Cap: \$1 million

Year Enacted: 2006

Data Update⁷⁴

Scholarships Awarded: 291 (2008-09)

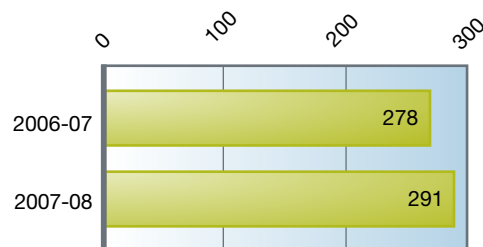
Average Scholarship: \$5,879 (2008-09)

Schools Participating: 25 (2008-09)

SGOs Operating: 3 (2008)

Total Donations: \$1,731,666 (2008)

Student Participation



Utah

Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship

Program Type: Special needs voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Be identified as disabled and learning under Individualized Education Program (IEP), or
- Currently attending eligible private school and be determined in need of specialized services

School Requirements:

- Be approved by the state
- Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d
- Comply with state health and safety codes
- Submit to the state an audit and financial report completed by a certified public accountant
- Possess adequate working capital to maintain operations for the first year
- Disclose to parents the special education services to be provided and the cost of those services
- Administer annual assessment of student's academic progress and report results to the student's parents
- Teachers of recipients must have bachelor's degrees, three years of teaching experience, or special skills
- Provide parents with teacher's credentials

Scholarship Cap:

- Based on state's public school funding formula
 - \$6,442.50 – three or more hours of services
 - \$3,865.50 – less than three hours of services

Enrollment Cap: None

Program Funding: \$3.5 million (2008-09)

Year Enacted: 2005

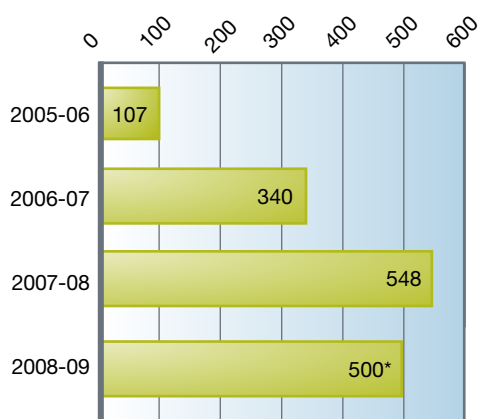
Data Update⁷⁶

Scholarships Awarded: 500* (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$4,692 (2008-09)

Schools Participating: 45 (2008-09)

Student Participation



*Number expected to increase

School Choice Yearbook 2008-09

In their own words

“The Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship is truly a blessing to Kelsie and our family. Without it, it would be monetarily impossible to have Kelsie in a private school that caters to her needs.”

–April Anthony,
parent of
scholarship
recipient, Kelsie⁷⁷

Satisfied parents

A 2008 state-funded audit of the program demonstrated that 89 percent of parents believe their children are advancing academically; 91 percent believe that their children's needs are better met in their new school; and 100 percent think that the program should continue.⁷⁸

School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

Higher grad rates

A May 2008 School Choice Wisconsin report found that if the Milwaukee Public Schools graduation rate had equaled that of students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program for the classes of 2003 through 2007, the number of public school students graduating in those five years would have been nearly 20 percent higher—representing an additional 2,976 students.⁸⁰

School safety

School Choice Wisconsin reports that “police are called to schools in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) more than three times as often as schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP).”⁸¹

Taxpayer savings

A November 2008 report by the nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau found that the MPCP is saving local taxpayer dollars in 2008-09. The MPCP costs \$6,607 per student, while the per-student cost for Milwaukee Public Schools is \$13,468.⁸²

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program

Program Type: Means-tested voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Students living in the Milwaukee Public School district
- Family income below 175 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$37,100 for a family of four in 2008)
- Private school students also eligible

School Requirements:

- Meet state nondiscrimination policies
- Allow students to opt out of religious programs
- Administer a nationally normed test to scholarship recipients in grades 4, 8, and 10 and provide scores to School Choice Demonstration Project
- Receive accreditation within three years of participating in MPCP
- Annually submit to the state a financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant
- Provide the state evidence of sound fiscal practices and financial viability
- School administrator must undergo financial training
- Meet all state health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap: \$6,607

Enrollment Cap: 22,500

Program Funding: \$128.8 million for 2008-09 (state estimate)

Year Enacted: 1990

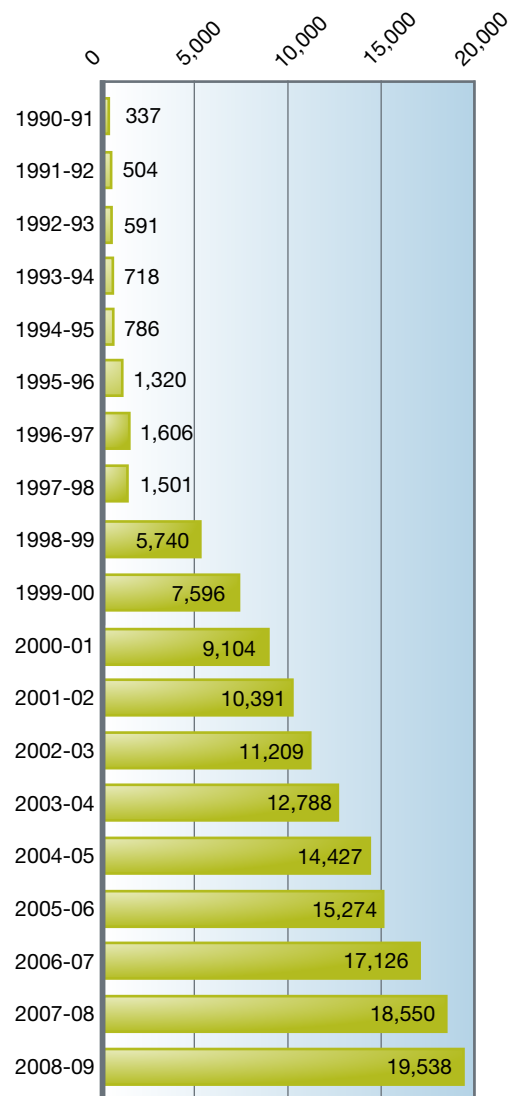
Data Update⁷⁹

Scholarships Awarded: 19,538* (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$6,607 (max)

Schools Participating: 127 (2008-09)

Student Participation



*Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students. When including part-time, 4-year-old kindergarten, the total is 20,244.

Washington, D.C.

D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program

Program Type: Means-tested voucher

Student Eligibility:

- Qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program (\$39,220 for a family of four in 2008)
- Priority to students who attend schools deemed in need of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under the federal No Child Left Behind Act
- Low-income students in other public schools are given second priority
- Students currently attending private school given third priority
- Scholarship recipients are required to participate in standardized assessments as part of a five-year federal evaluation of the program

School Requirements:

- Must not discriminate
- Comply with district health and safety codes

Scholarship Cap: \$7,500

Enrollment Cap: None

Program Funding: \$12.7 million (2008-09)

Year Enacted: 2004

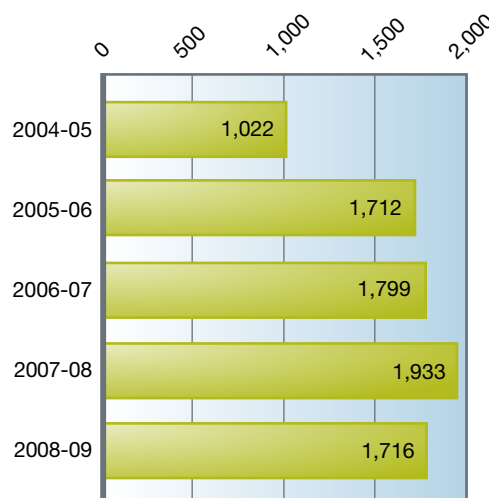
Data Update⁸³

Scholarships Awarded: 1,716 (2008-09)

Average Scholarship: \$6,300 (2008-09)

Schools Participating: 52 (2008-09)

Student Participation



School Choice Yearbook

2008-09

In their own words

"The schools in D.C. were not educating my child. At first I did not have a choice, but I am so thankful that I and so many other parents did get choice with the Opportunity Scholarship Program. I can't begin to tell you how much my child's education has improved since starting with this program. It is a program that is helping to educate our children so they can have better, more productive lives and in turn create better communities here in Ward 8 and across D.C."

– Wanda Gaddis, parent of scholarship recipient⁸⁴

Achievement gains

Scholarship recipients take standardized assessments each year as part of a five-year U.S. Department of Education evaluation of the program. The June 2008 report on the second year of the program found reading gains for a majority of scholarship recipients.⁸⁵

About the Alliance for School Choice and Advocates for School Choice

The Alliance for School Choice is the nation's largest organization promoting school vouchers and scholarship tax credit programs. Together with a growing community of national and local allies, the Alliance supports the creation, implementation, promotion, and expansion of well-designed school choice programs. In addition, the Alliance works nationally to advance the school choice movement by publicizing research, educating the public about school choice, training local leaders, marketing effective education reform initiatives, and developing broader public support.

The Alliance for School Choice is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Advocates for School Choice is an advocacy organization, focused exclusively on generating support for, and securing passage of, quality school choice legislation.

Throughout the year, Advocates for School Choice carefully assesses the legislative prospects in each state, determines what resources are necessary to enact school legislation, and deploys resources as necessary. In supporting the legislative efforts of individual state programs, Advocates is able to make new school choice programs a reality, while concurrently protecting existing programs from regulatory threats, lawsuits, hostile legislators and governors, and attacks from outside groups.

Advocates shares offices, staff, and organizational infrastructure with the Alliance for School Choice, which it reimburses for proportional salaries and expenses. Advocates for School Choice is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization.

Contact Information

Alliance for School Choice
Advocates for School Choice
1660 L Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 280-1990
info@allianceforschoolchoice.org

If you are interested in advancing school choice, you are encouraged to contact a member of our team.

Media Inquiries

Andrew Campanella
Director of Communications
(202) 280-1985
acampanella@allianceforschoolchoice.org

Research Inquiries

Geoffrey Goodman
Research Manager and Senior Writer
(202) 280-1988
ggoodman@allianceforschoolchoice.org

Legislative Information

John Schilling
Interim President
(202) 280-1990

Scott Jensen
National Consultant for State Projects
(414) 588-7050
scottjensen@wi.rr.com

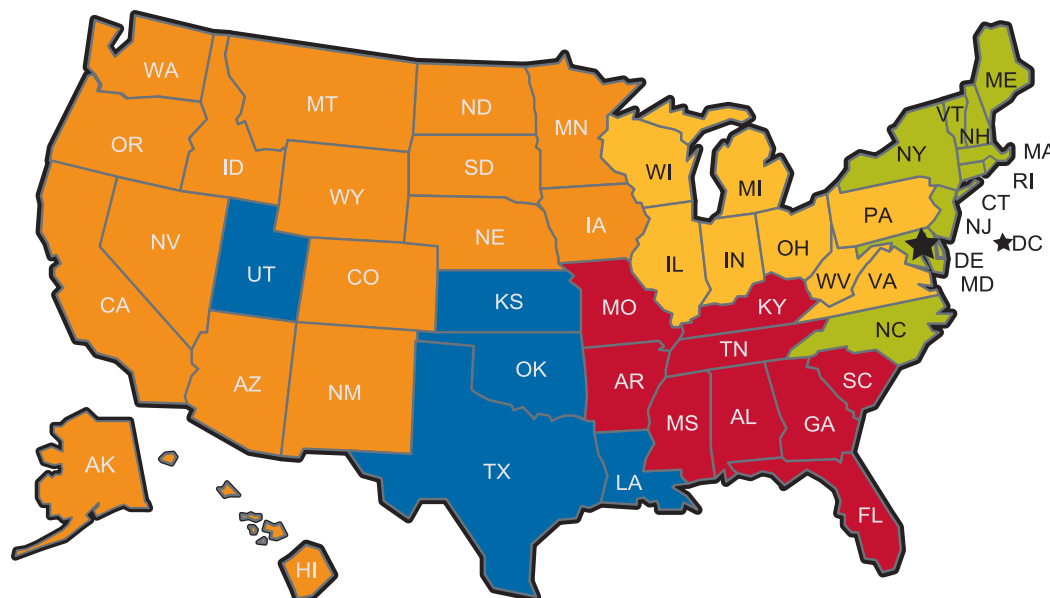
Zack Dawes
Consultant for State Projects
(512) 343-0220
zdceo@aol.com

Lori Drummer
Director of State Projects
(202) 280-1975
ldrummer@allianceforschoolchoice.org

Anna Varghese Marcucio
Director of State Projects
(202) 280-1973
vargmarc@yahoo.com

Jamie Self
Director of State Projects
(678) 431-8421
jkself@gmail.com

Robert Teegarden
Director of State Projects
(623) 594-7592
rateegarden@cox.net



National School Choice Organizations

Alliance for School Choice
allianceforschoolchoice.org

All Children Matter
allchildrenmatter.org

American Legislative Exchange Council
alec.org

**Black Alliance for
Educational Options (BAEO)**
baeo.org

The Cato Institute
cato.org

Center for Education Reform
edreform.com

**Council for American
Private Education (CAPE)**
capenet.org

**The Friedman Foundation
for Educational Choice**
friedmanfoundation.org

Heartland Institute
heartland.org

Heritage Foundation
heritage.org

**Hispanic Council for Reform &
Educational Options**
hcreo.org

Institute for Justice
ij.org

State Policy Network
spn.org

State School Choice Organizations

Arizona
AZ School Tuition Organization Assn.
astoa.com

Florida
Step Up for Students
stepupforstudents.com

Georgia
Center for an Educated Georgia
educatedgeorgia.org

Illinois
School Choice Illinois
schoolchoiceillinois.org

Indiana
School Choice Indiana
schoolchoiceindiana.org

Iowa
Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education
iowaace.org

Louisiana
Louisiana BAEO
louisiana.baeo.org

Maryland
BOAST
boastmaryland.org

Minnesota
Coalition for Kids
misf.org/coalition-for-kids.php

Missouri
Children's Education Alliance of Missouri
childrenseducationalliance-mo.org

New Jersey
Excellent Education for Everyone
nje3.org

New Mexico
Educate New Mexico
educatenm.org

North Carolina
Parents for Educational Freedom in NC
pefnc.org

Ohio
School Choice Ohio
schohio.org

Pennsylvania
REACH Foundation
paschoolchoice.org

Rhode Island
Rhode Island Scholarship Alliance
rischolarshipalliance.org

Utah
Parents for Choice in Education
choicineducation.org

Virginia
School Choice Virginia
schoolchoiceva.com

Washington, D.C.
Washington Scholarship Fund
washingtonscholarshipfund.org

Wisconsin
School Choice Wisconsin
schoolchoicewi.org

In several states, there is more than one school choice organization. Because of space limitations, we could only list one group per state. For a comprehensive listing of organizations and other Web resources, please visit the Alliance's Web site.

Endnotes

1. Robert Verbruggen, "Pro-Choice," *National Review*, October 20, 2008.
2. *The Wall Street Journal*, "Democrats for School Choice," May 19, 2008.
3. Alliance for School Choice
4. *Washington Examiner*, "Norton seeking to end voucher program, May 1, 2008. Quoting D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty testifying before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the reauthorization of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.
5. Marion Barry, "Choices for D.C. Parents," *Washington Post*, May 13, 2008.
6. Joseph Lieberman, letter to The Honorable Richard J. Durbin and The Honorable Sam Brownback of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, July 8, 2008.
7. Paul Murphy, "Opponents protest voucher bill on Capitol steps," *WWL-TV*, June 05, 2008.
8. Roland S. Martin, "Commentary: McCain right, Obama wrong on school vouchers," *Creators Syndicate*, July 18, 2008.
9. William G. Howell, Martin R. West, and Paul E. Peterson, "The 2008 *Education Next* – PEPG Survey of Public Opinion," *Education Next*, Fall 2008, p 12-26.
10. William G. Howell, Martin R. West, and Paul E. Peterson, "What Americans Think about Their Schools: The 2007 *Education Next* – PEPG Survey," *Education Next*, Fall 2007, p 12-26.
11. Alliance for School Choice
12. Alliance for School Choice, *The Promise of Special Needs Scholarships*, 2007.
13. Ron Matus, "Foes join voucher group," *St. Petersburg Times*, September 13, 2008.
14. Robert Verbruggen, "Pro-Choice," *National Review*, October 20, 2008.
15. William G. Howell, Martin R. West, and Paul E. Peterson, "The 2008 *Education Next* – PEPG Survey of Public Opinion," *Education Next*, Fall 2008, p 12-26.
16. Paul DiPerna, "Nevada's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice," Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, January 29, 2008; Paul DiPerna, "Tennessee's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice," Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, March 12, 2008; Paul DiPerna, "Idaho's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice," Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, March 28, 2008; Paul DiPerna, "Oklahoma's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice," Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, June 25, 2008; Paul DiPerna, "Maryland's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice," Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, August 28, 2008; Paul DiPerna, "Montana's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice," Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, October 14, 2008.
17. Jay P. Greene and Marcus A. Winters, "The Effect of Special Education Vouchers on Public School Achievement: Evidence from Florida's McKay Scholarship Program," *Manhattan Institute Civic Report* No. 52, April 2008.
18. Ibid, Executive Summary.
19. Patrick J. Wolf, "The Comprehensive Longitudinal Evaluation of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program: Summary of Baseline Reports," SCDP Milwaukee Evaluation Report #1, February 2008, p. 5.
20. Robert M. Costrell, "The Fiscal Impact of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, 1993-2008," SCDP Milwaukee Evaluation Report #2, February 2008, p. 1.
21. Brian Kisida, et al., "The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program: Baseline Descriptive Report on Participating Schools," SCDP Milwaukee Evaluation Report #3, February 2008, p. 8, Table 2.
22. John F. Witte, et al., "MPCP Longitudinal Educational Growth Study Baseline Report," SCDP Milwaukee Evaluation Report #5, February 2008, p. 27.
23. Ibid, p. 26.
24. Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Memo from Russ Kava, Fiscal Analyst, to Representative Jason Fields, November 19, 2008; Representative Jason Fields, "Legislative Fiscal Bureau Compares MPS and School Choice Levies," Press Release, November 20, 2008.
25. John R. Warren, "Graduation Rates for Choice and Public School Students in Milwaukee, 2003-2007," School Choice Wisconsin, May 2008.
26. Patrick Wolf, Babette Gutmann, Michael Puma, Brian Kisida, Lou Rizzo, and Nada Eissa. Evaluation of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program: Impacts After Two Years (NCEE 2000-4023). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.
27. Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability, "The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program Saves State Dollars," Report No. 08-68, December 2008.
28. Dan Lips and Matthew Ladner, "Demography Defeated: Florida's K-12 Reforms and Their Lessons for the Nation," Goldwater Institute Policy Report No. 227, September 30, 2008.
29. Greg Forster, "Promising Start: An Empirical Analysis of How EdChoice Vouchers Affect Ohio Public Schools," Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, August 2008.
30. Calculations based on National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics: 2007, Table 171.
31. National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, Long-Term Trend Reading Scale Scores.
32. National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2007 Mathematics and Reading Report Cards.
33. Ibid.
34. U.S. Department of Education, Mapping America's Educational Progress 2008, <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/accountability/results/progress/nation.pdf>, accessed January 2, 2008.
35. Editorial Projects in Education (EPE), "Diplomas Count 2008: School to College: Can State P-16 Councils Ease the Transition," *Education Week* vol. 27, no. 40, June 5, 2008.
36. Ibid.
37. The Associated Press, "1 in 10 schools is 'dropout factory,'" October 29, 2007.
38. Editorial Projects in Education (EPE), "Cities in Crisis: A Special Analytic Report on High School Graduation," April 1, 2008.
39. S. Baldi, Y. Jin, M. Skemer, P.J. Green, and D. Herget, "Highlights From PISA 2006: Performance of U.S. 15-Year-Old Students in Science and Mathematics Literacy in an International Context (NCES 2008-016)," National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC, 2007.
40. U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Educational Attainment in the United States: 2006," Table 8. Income in 2005 by Educational Attainment of the Population 18 Years and Over, by Age, Sex, Race Alone, and Hispanic Origin: 2006, Current Population Survey 2006, March 15, 2007.
41. U.S. Department of Labor, *America's Dynamic Workforce: 2008*, August 2008, p 35.
42. Alliance for Excellent Education, "The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools," Issue Brief, June 2008.

Endnotes

43. Caroline Wolf Harlow, "Education and Correctional Populations," *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report*, U.S. Department of Justice, January 2003.
44. Arizona Department of Revenue, Office of Economic Research and Analysis, "Individual Income Tax Credit for Donations to Private School Tuition Organizations: Reporting for 2007," April 1, 2008.
45. Susan L. Aud, "School Choice by the Numbers: The Fiscal Effect of School Choice Programs, 1990-2006," The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, April 2007.
46. Arizona Department of Revenue, Office of Economic Research and Analysis, "Corporate Income Tax Credit for Contributions to School Tuition Organizations: Reporting for 2007," August 27, 2008.
47. Arizona School Tuition Organization Association, News Release, "Corporate Tax-Credit Scholarships Helped Thousands of Students, Saved Millions of Dollars," October 7, 2008.
48. Arizona Department of Education, email correspondence, June 12, 2008, November 3, 2008 and November 5, 2008.
49. Alliance for School Choice.
50. Arizona Department of Education, email correspondence, June 12, 2008, and October 30, 2008.
51. Florida Department of Education, John M. McKay Scholarship Program, November Quarterly Report, 2008; Florida Department of Education, Choice Facts, John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, August 2008. www.floridaschoolchoice.org.
52. Alliance for School Choice
53. Marcus A Winters and Jay P. Greene, "Vouchers and special education," *The Washington Times*, April 29, 2008.
54. Florida Department of Education, Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program, November Quarterly Report, 2008; Florida Department of Education, Choice Facts, Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program, August 2008. www.floridaschoolchoice.org; Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability, "The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program Saves State Dollars," Report No. 08-68, December 2008.
55. Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability, "The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program Saves State Dollars," Report No. 08-68, December 2008.
56. Georgia Department of Education, 2008-2009 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program (GSNS) Preliminary Data Report, November 18, 2008; Georgia Department of Education, 2007-2008 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program (GSNS) Year End Data Report, November 18, 2008.
57. David Casas, "School choice a special pick parents make," *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, October 22, 2008.
58. Georgia Department of Education website, <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us>, accessed January 7, 2009.
59. Brian Gottlob, "The Fiscal Impact of Tax-Credit Scholarships in Georgia," The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, February 2008.
60. Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education, email correspondence, January 13, 14 2009.
61. *Des Moines Register*, June 9, 2008.
62. Louisiana Department of Education, email correspondence, December 16, 2008 and December 19, 2008; Louisiana Department of Education, "Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, School Year 08-09," Paul G. Pasorek, State Superintendent of Education, PowerPoint presentation to House Education Committee, November 12, 2008.
63. Sarah Carr, "Vouchers add life to private schools in city," *New Orleans Times Picayune*, November 14, 2008.
64. School Choice Ohio; Ohio Department of Education, email correspondence, October 28, 2008.
65. Ohio Department of Education, email correspondence, October 28, 2008.
66. *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, "Policy Matters faults state's autism scholarship program," March 19, 2008.
67. Christina Samuels, "Analysis Faults Ohio Vouchers for Autistic Students," *Education Week*, March 27, 2008.
68. Ohio Department of Education, email correspondence, August 8, 2008, November 21, 2008; Ohio Department of Education, EdChoice Participating Private (nonpublic) Schools, <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>, August 19, 2008.
69. *The Columbus Dispatch*, "Keep moving forward: Ohio's Democratic House majority shouldn't undo school reforms of the past decade," November 9, 2008.
70. Greg Forster, "Promising Start: An Empirical Analysis of How EdChoice Vouchers Affect Ohio Public Schools," The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, August 20, 2008.
71. Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, email correspondence, November 14, 2008, May 23, 2008; Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, "List of Scholarship Organizations (Effective 07/01/2008 – 06/30/2009)," www.newpa.com, January 7, 2009.
72. Mary Yoder and Jared Walczak, "The Dollars and Sense of School Choice," Commonwealth Policy Brief, Vol 19, No. 04, Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives, July 2007.
73. Alliance for School Choice
74. Rhode Island Department of Revenue, Division of Taxation, 2008 Year End Summary for Scholarships Issued by SGO, January 2009.
75. Alliance for School Choice
76. Utah Department of Education, email correspondence, October 30, 2008, December 17, 2008.
77. Parents for Choice in Education
78. Office of the Utah Legislative Auditor General, "A Performance Audit of the Carson Smith Scholarship for Students with Special Needs," Report to the Utah Legislature, Number 2008-02, January 2008.
79. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, "Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, Membership and Payment History, in Total, 1990 to 2008," November 2008. <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice.html>.
80. John R. Warren, "Graduation Rates for Choice and Public School Students in Milwaukee, 2003-2007," School Choice Wisconsin, May 2008.
81. School Choice Wisconsin, "School Safety in Milwaukee," October 2008. www.schoolchoicewi.org.
82. Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Memo from Russ Kava, Fiscal Analyst, to Representative Jason Fields, November 19, 2008; Representative Jason Fields, "Legislative Fiscal Bureau Compares MPS and School Choice Levies," Press Release, November 20, 2008.
83. Washington Scholarship Fund, email correspondence, October 29, 2008, December 15, 2008.
84. Marion Barry, "Choices for D.C. Parents," *The Washington Post*, May 13, 2008.
85. Patrick Wolf, Babette Gutmann, Michael Puma, Brian Kisida, Lou Rizzo, and Nada Eissa. Evaluation of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program: Impacts After Two Years (NCEE 2000-4023). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.

Praise for the *School Choice Yearbook 2007*

"This volume is straightforward, no-nonsense stuff. It explains...why the continuing rise in school choice legislation and programs is worth celebrating. The Yearbook is a shot in the arm to school choice advocates."

- *Fordham Foundation*

"a comprehensive guide to current school choice programs, research, and activity around the country."

- *State Policy Network*

"includes a wide array of voucher programs, including special education voucher programs...and scholarship tax credit programs."

- *Association of American Educators*

"a compendium of interesting and useful information. Overall, an important source of information for anyone interested in the current state of school choice across the nation."

- *The Buckeye Institute*

"provides the necessary information to show that...reforms such as school choice are the logical step."

- *American Legislative Exchange Council*

With the *Yearbook*, "the Alliance for School Choice...succeeds...in rallying public support."

- *Public Relations Quarterly*



ALLIANCE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE

ADVOCATES for SCHOOL CHOICE

1660 L Street, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: (202) 280-1990

info@allianceforschoolchoice.org

AllianceForSchoolChoice.org

ISBN: 978-0-9816482-2-4



9 780981 648224