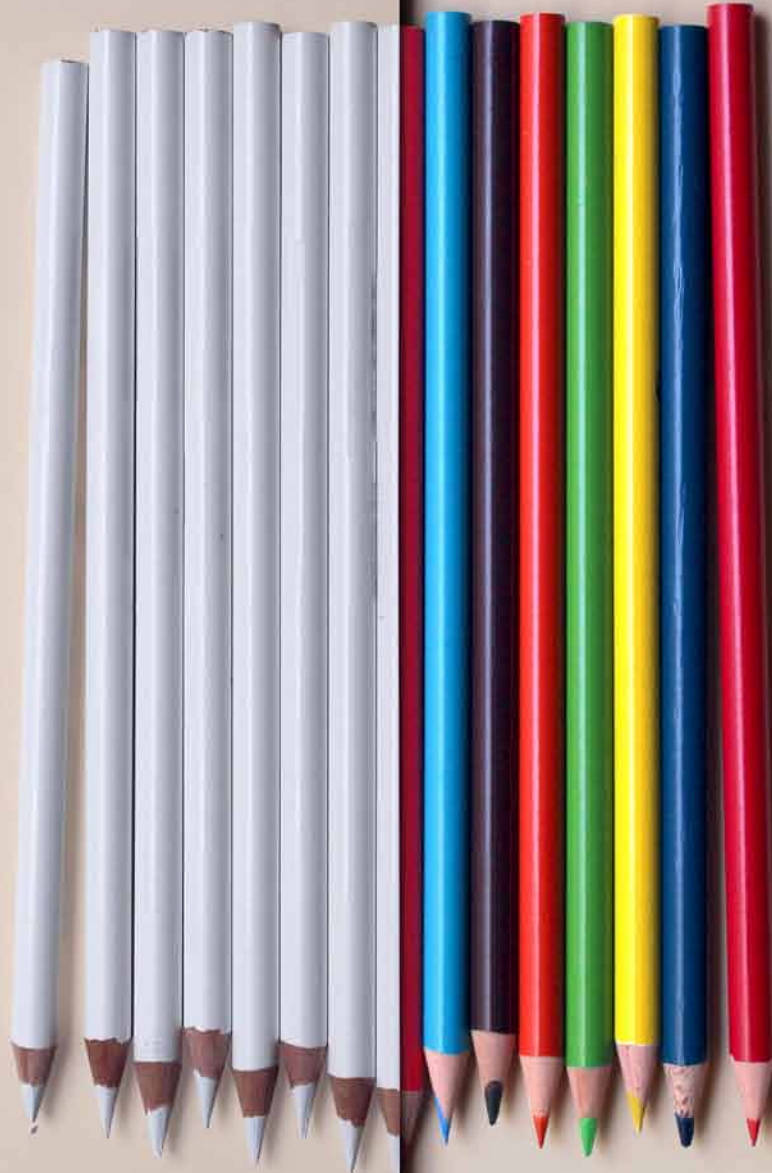


# Hope · Action · Results

ALLIANCE *for* SCHOOL CHOICE | YEARBOOK 2013-14





**BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO EDUCATIONAL CHOICE AND INNOVATION**

ALLIANCE *for* SCHOOL CHOICE

# School Choice Yearbook 2013–14

HOPE. ACTION. RESULTS.







*Educational choice serves nearly 309,000 students in 39 programs, located in 18 states and District of Columbia.*

**HOPE ACTION RESULTS**

School Choice Yearbook 2013–14

An Annual Publication

**PUBLISHED BY:**

The Alliance for School Choice

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**AUTHORS:**

Matt Frendewey, Kimberly Kump, Kim

Martinez, Stephanie Malin and Whitney

Marcavage, with John Schilling, Scott Jensen

and Krista Carney.

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# 2013: Hope, Action, Results

FOREWORD BY BETSY DEVOS CHAIRMAN, ALLIANCE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE



*Betsy DeVos with Angie, the girl she mentors at the Potter's House in Grand Rapids, MI.*

Every day, hundreds of thousands of children across the country wake up and head to a school of their parents' choice—a choice that would not be available for many of those students if not for the work of the Alliance for School Choice and our allies in the educational choice movement. It is those lives that we impact, the untold children who know nothing about what we do, but with educational choice, they have access to the environment best suited for their academic needs.

Yet for every one of those students with a choice, there are countless students who are denied the right to educational freedom.

And that's why our efforts matter: Not yesterday's victories, but tomorrow's triumphs—the many hundreds of thousands of children who will reach their potential because we continue to break down the barriers to educational choice and opportunity.

This is why our cause has evolved—no longer are we simply education reform advocates, nor are we mere proponents for change. Together we are part of an education revolution—a revolution that results in parents, especially those who have children trapped in failing schools, having choices. And, only through educational choice can we unleash the power of bold innovation to transform the lives of these children to give them hope for a much brighter future.

We are confident that ultimately our revolution will succeed, because we give voice to millions of children and parents who are asking for nothing more than the fundamental right to a choice that will give them equal access to the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for another tremendous year educational choice victories and for joining us in our EdRevolution!

Sincerely,

Betsy DeVos, *Chairman*  
Alliance for School Choice



# School Choice Yearbook 2013-14

FOREWORD BY KEVIN P. CHAVOUS EXECUTIVE COUNSEL, ALLIANCE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE

There's an education revolution underway and educational choice is at its core. Today, more than 308,560 children are enrolled in private school choice programs around the country. This is the largest growth in publicly funded private school choice enrollment in a single year. The momentum for creating and expanding educational options for parents and children is real, and we're hard at work to make sure this momentum continues.


The progress in the school choice movement these past few years has been unprecedented. Last year, educational choice programs grew from 32 to 39 programs in 18 states plus Washington, D.C. and Douglas County, Colorado. This includes eight new programs as well as seven states whose programs were expanded, improved, or strengthened. Indeed, the legislative progress over the past several years has created an eligibility pool of more than 2.7 million scholarship opportunities across the country, requiring us to significantly enhance efforts to place children in high-quality seats.

As you will see in the following pages, while the school choice movement has much to be proud of, there is still so much more to do. Our "to do" list includes working closely with allies to make sure every eligible family is aware of their educational options and continue to break down the barriers to educational choice across the country.

That's why this year's Yearbook is entitled Hope, Action, Results. Together, as allies in a revolution to reimagine education, we offer children and parents new hope. As activists in the movement, we are agents of positive change and action. And, as champions for choice, we generate results that matter—results that allow children access to an educational environment best suited to their individual needs.

Together we are already hard at work to make 2014 an even bigger year in our quest to ensure no child is denied the fundamental right to attend the school of their parents' choice.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Chavous, *Executive Counsel*  
Alliance for School Choice

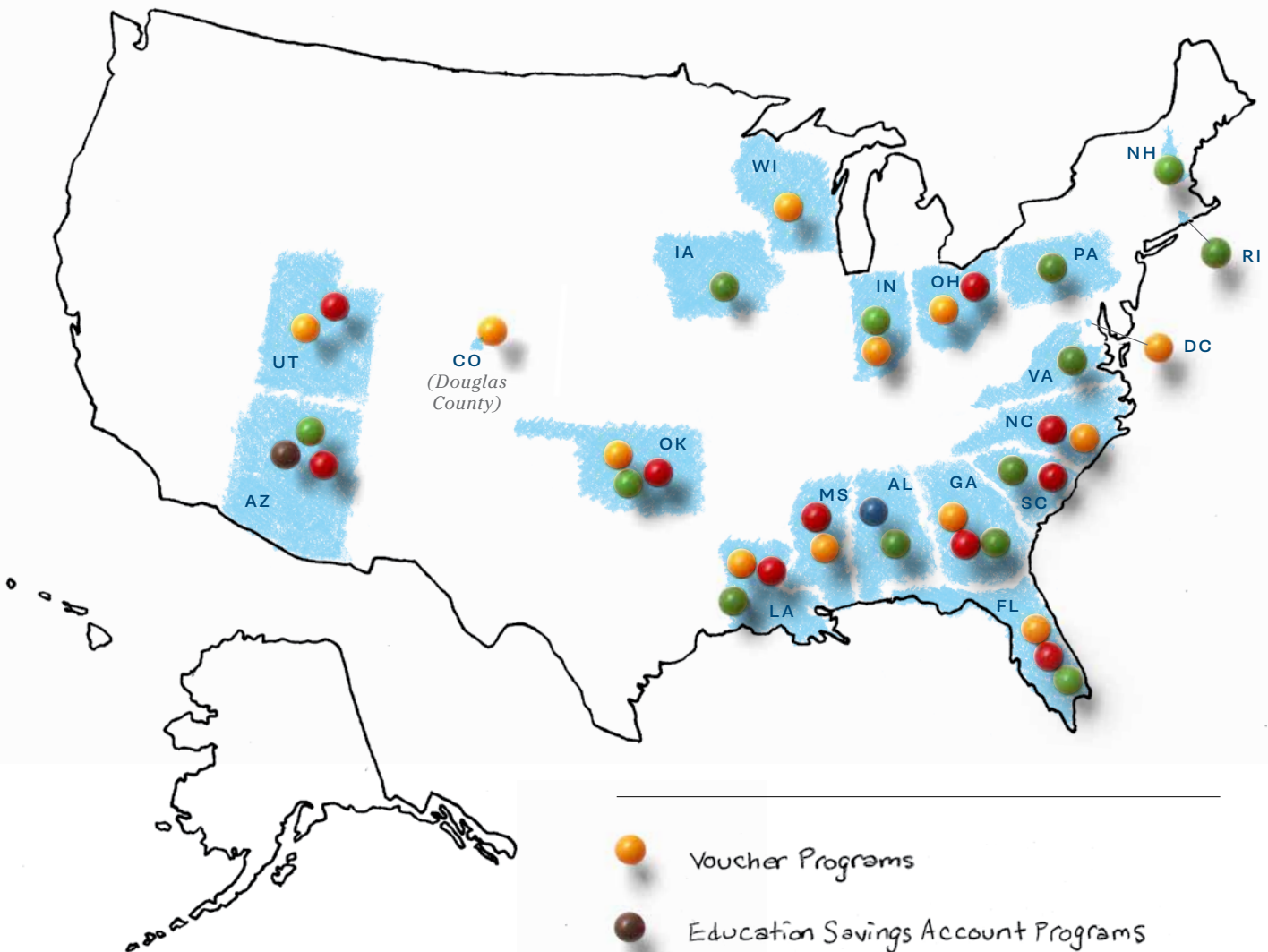







Kevin P. Chavous, executive counsel for the Alliance for School Choice, speaks at a National School Choice Week celebration in Washington, D.C.

# What Is Educational Choice?

Educational choice empowers parents to choose the setting that best fits their child's needs, public or private. With educational choice, parents—who would otherwise not have a choice—pick the best schools for their child, whether it's a traditional public school, an innovative public charter school, or a high-quality private school as a result of a scholarship. Educational choice puts parents and children first.

## STATES WITH SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS



-  Voucher Programs
-  Education Savings Account Programs
-  Individual Income Tax Credit
-  Scholarship Tax Credit Programs
-  Special Needs Programs

*At least one program in the state is designed to serve students with special needs.*

**SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDITS**

Scholarship tax credit programs give families greater access to high-quality private schools by providing incentives for businesses and individuals to get involved in education reform. In these programs, companies and individuals receive tax credits for donating to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to students.

**SCHOOL VOUCHERS**

Voucher programs give children (usually children from low-income families, children in failing schools, or children with special needs) greater access to high-quality private schools. In voucher programs, education dollars “follow the child,” and parents select private schools and receive state-funded scholarships to pay tuition.

**CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Charter schools are public schools run by educators, members of the community, or other bodies, using innovative and specialized education programs. These schools have a fair amount of autonomy and operate without the bureaucracy that often plagues traditional public schools.

**EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

Education savings account programs give parents the power to use their child’s state education dollars on a variety of educational options, including tuition and fees, textbooks, and tutoring. In these programs, families receive a debit card with funds available for approved education expenses and are able to choose the best education for their children.

**HOMESCHOOLING**

Homeschooling has long been an educational option for families across the country. With the growth of online education and full curriculum available to parents, homeschooling allows parents the option of tailoring their children’s education at home.

**VIRTUAL SCHOOLS**

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

**INDIVIDUAL TUITION TAX CREDITS**

Individual state income tax credits of significant size can be used for a child’s educational expenses, including private school tuition, and can help families choose educational tools they otherwise could not afford.

**MAGNET SCHOOLS**

Magnet schools are public schools that offer specific education programs, often emphasizing academic subjects like math, science, and technology, or use specific instructional approaches.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE**

Public school choice (also known as open enrollment) allows students attending poor-performing public schools to attend a higher-performing public school inside or outside the student’s assigned school district. Public school choice is an important option for students assigned to failing schools because of their ZIP code.

**COURSE CHOICE**

Course Choice allows K–12 students to enroll in individual course options, from both public and private providers, using state funds. Many of these courses are online but some are offered in traditional or blended-learning formats.

# Types of School Choice Programs

Publicly funded private school choice—school vouchers, scholarship tax credits, and education savings accounts—are designed to allow parents to choose the best education for their children.

The strongest private school choice programs are specifically designed for disadvantaged children who, without these educational options, would be stuck in a school that does not meet their individual educational needs. School choice

programs are often designed to help children from low- or middle-income families, children stuck in poorly performing public schools, or children with special learning needs.

## MEANS-TESTED PROGRAMS

*Means-tested programs* are designed to serve students from low-income families to attend the school of their parents' choice. These programs provide access to quality educational options that low-income families would not otherwise have.

*Means-preferenced programs* give preference to students from low-income families. The following programs help students from low-income families and students from middle-income families. Twenty-two of the nation's 39 private school choice programs are means-tested or means-preferenced.

### VOUCHER PROGRAMS

INDIANA'S Choice Scholarship Program

LOUISIANA'S Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program\*

NORTH CAROLINA'S Opportunity Scholarship Program

OHIO'S Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program

OHIO'S Educational Choice Scholarship Program\*

OHIO'S Income-Based Scholarship Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.'S D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program

WISCONSIN'S Milwaukee Parental Choice Program

WISCONSIN'S Racine Parental Choice Program

WISCONSIN Parental Choice Program

### SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

ALABAMA'S Tax Credits for Contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations\*

ARIZONA'S Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit

FLORIDA Tax Credit Scholarship

INDIANA'S Corporate and Individual Scholarship Tax Credit Program

IOWA'S Individual and Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit

LOUISIANA'S Tuition Donation Rebate Program\*

NEW HAMPSHIRE Education Tax Credit

OKLAHOMA'S Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships\*

PENNSYLVANIA'S Educational Improvement Tax Credit

PENNSYLVANIA'S Educational Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit\*

RHODE ISLAND Corporate Scholarship Tax Credits

VIRGINIA Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits

## FAILING SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

Failing schools programs help students stuck in persistently failing public schools. These programs allow students to attend the private or public school of their parents' choice, providing immediate educational options to students. Six of the nation's 39 private school choice programs are failing schools programs.

### VOUCHER PROGRAMS

**LOUISIANA'S** Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program\*

**OHIO'S** Educational Choice Scholarship Program\*

### SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

**ALABAMA'S** Tax Credits for Contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations\*

**OKLAHOMA'S** Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships\*

**PENNSYLVANIA'S** Educational Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit

### INDIVIDUAL TUITION TAX CREDITS

**ALABAMA'S** Parent Refundable Tax Credits \*

### EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS

**ARIZONA** Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program\*

## SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Special needs scholarship programs are private school choice programs designed specifically for students with special needs.

These programs allow students to attend a public or private school that can address their specific learning needs. Thirteen of the nation's 39 private school choice programs are specifically designed to serve students with special needs.

### VOUCHER PROGRAMS

**FLORIDA'S** John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program

**GEORGIA** Special Needs Scholarship Program

**LOUISIANA'S** School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities

**MISSISSIPPI** Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program

**MISSISSIPPI** Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-Language Impairments Program

**OHIO'S** Autism Scholarship Program

**OHIO'S** Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program

**OKLAHOMA'S** Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program

**NORTH CAROLINA'S** Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grant

**UTAH'S** Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship

### SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

**ARIZONA'S** Lexie's Law

**SOUTH CAROLINA'S** Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children

### EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS

**ARIZONA** Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program\*

\* Some programs are designed to be for both failing schools and means-tested or means-preferenced. In addition, some programs are designed for students with special needs and students stuck in failing schools.

*Educational choice provides a  
lifeline to thousands of children.*



# Educational Choice Today

School choice remains in demand as big and bold moves in 2013 resulted in eight new programs and seven programs that were expanded, improved, or strengthened.

Highlights from 2013 included Indiana's program doubling in enrollment and Louisiana's program growing by 38 percent. Donations to Arizona's tax credit scholarship programs spiked.

With growth in school choice on the rise across the country, 2013 served as a new high point in the era of educational choice. In 2013, the number of educational choice programs

grew from 32 to a total of 39 programs nationwide. This figure encompasses all eight newly enacted programs, including North Carolina's special need voucher which replaced the state's previously existing individual tuition tax credit for children with disabilities.

## 2013-14 DATA AT A GLANCE

### 18 STATES + D.C. + DOUGLAS COUNTY, CO WITH PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

**10 STATES + D.C. + DOUGLAS COUNTY, CO**  
with Voucher Programs

**13 STATES**  
with Scholarship Tax Credit Programs

**1 STATE**  
with Education Savings Account Programs

**10 STATES**  
with Special Needs Scholarship Programs

### 39

#### PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

**21**  
Voucher Programs

**16**  
Scholarship Tax Credit Programs

**1**  
Education Savings Account Programs

**13**  
Special Needs Scholarship Programs

### \$1.2 BILLION

#### EXPENDED FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

**\$662 MILLION**  
expended for Voucher Programs

**\$551 MILLION**  
expended for Scholarship Tax Credit Programs

**\$10.2 MILLION**  
expended for Education Savings Account Programs

**\$275 MILLION**  
expended for Special Needs Scholarship Programs

### \$3,780 AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT IN PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

**\$6,210 AVERAGE**  
Scholarship Amount in Voucher Programs

**\$2,282 AVERAGE**  
Scholarship Amount for Scholarship Tax Credit Programs

**\$13,000 AVERAGE**  
Scholarship Amount in Education Savings Account Programs

**\$7,025 AVERAGE**  
Scholarship Amount in Special Needs Scholarship Programs

\* Information in the overall sections is not intended to add up to the numbers in the summary boxes. For example, some states have voucher and tax credit programs. Additionally, funding and student data for special needs scholarships is also included in data for vouchers, scholarship tax credit programs, and education savings account programs.

### SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES

STATE	PROGRAM	YEAR ENACTED	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2013-14	FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2013-14
ALABAMA	Tax Credits for Contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations	2013	N/A	N/A
ARIZONA	Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	1997	30,388	\$75,033,039
ARIZONA	Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	2006	11,653	\$29,858,865
ARIZONA	Lexie's Law	2009	218	\$3,505,350
FLORIDA	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship	2001	59,674	\$286,250,000
GEORGIA	Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program	2008	13,285	\$48,118,266
INDIANA	Corporate and Individual Scholarship Tax Credit Program	2009	4,638	\$6,408,908
IOWA	Individual and Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	2006	10,475	\$13,461,507
LOUISIANA	Tuition Donation Rebate Program	2012	16	N/A
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Education Tax Credit Program	2012	103	\$128,340
OKLAHOMA	Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships	2011	467	\$401,068
PENNSYLVANIA	Educational Improvement Tax Credit	2001	59,301	\$65,750,000
PENNSYLVANIA	Educational Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit	2012	1,318	\$19,000,000
RHODE ISLAND	Rhode Island Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit	2006	408	\$1,658,388
SOUTH CAROLINA	Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children	2013	N/A	N/A
VIRGINIA	Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits	2012	275	\$1,232,701
			192,219	\$550,806,432

### EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES

STATE	PROGRAM	YEAR ENACTED	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2013-14	FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2013-14
ARIZONA	Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program	2011	761	\$10,200,000

Note: N/A stands for Not Available. Data may not be available for one of two reasons: a program is newly enacted or newly implemented and there is no official data or a court has issued an injunction barring the program from moving forward.

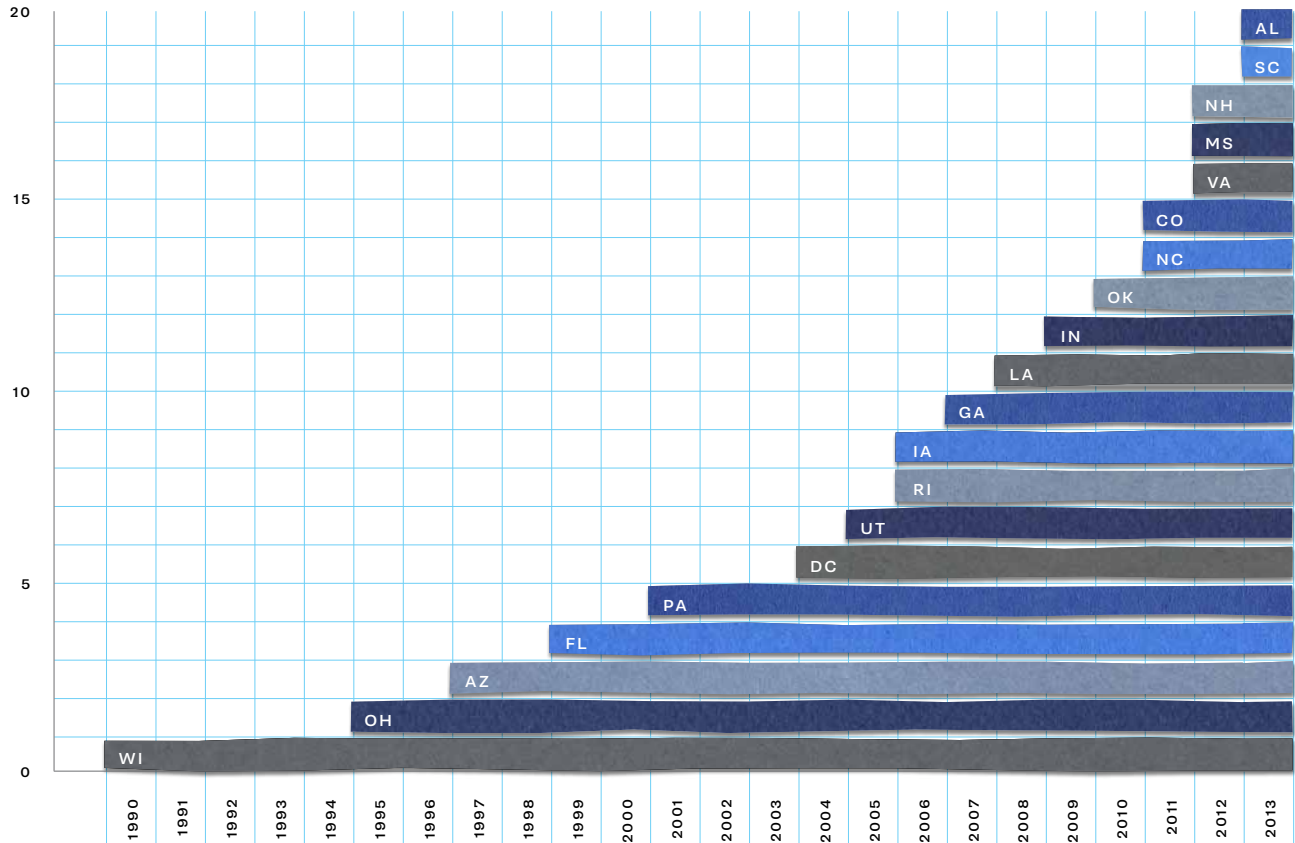


**VOUCHER PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES**

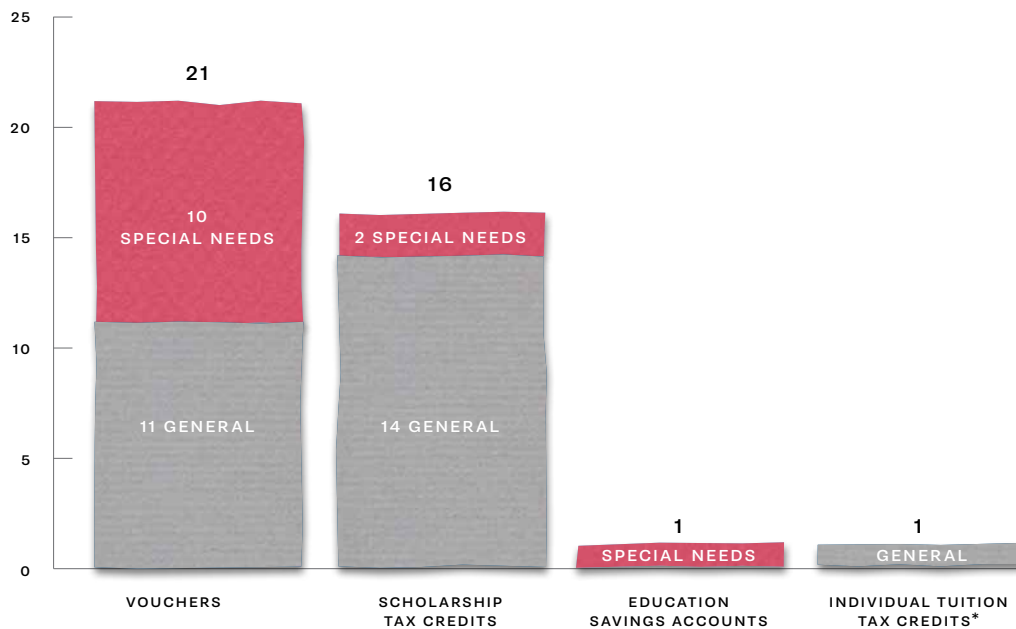
STATE	PROGRAM	YEAR ENACTED	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2013-14	FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2013-14
COLORADO	Douglas County Choice Scholarship Program	2011	N/A	N/A
FLORIDA	John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	1999	27,040	\$168,890,916
GEORGIA	Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	2007	3,400	\$13,649,039
INDIANA	Choice Scholarship Program	2011	19,809	\$81,066,786
LOUISIANA	Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program	2008	6,775	\$24,536,161
LOUISIANA	School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities	2010	245	\$534,898
MISSISSIPPI	Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship	2012	73	\$330,681
MISSISSIPPI	Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship	2013	N/A	N/A
NORTH CAROLINA	Opportunity Scholarship Program	2013	N/A	N/A
NORTH CAROLINA	Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grants	2013	N/A	N/A
OHIO	Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	1995	6,337	\$28,794,190
OHIO	Autism Scholarship Program	2003	2,623	\$46,970,000
OHIO	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	2005	16,987	\$72,599,898
OHIO	Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program	2011	2,103	\$26,110,226
OHIO	Income Based Scholarship Program (EdChoice Expansion)	2013	992	\$8,500,000
OKLAHOMA	Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	2010	290	\$1,312,773
UTAH	Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	2005	650	\$3,892,000
WASHINGTON, D.C.	D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program	2004	1,638	\$13,799,620
WISCONSIN	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	1990	24,938	\$160,653,817
WISCONSIN	Racine Parental Choice Program	2011	1,180	\$7,605,425
WISCONSIN	Wisconsin Parental Choice Program	2013	500	\$3,221,000
			115,580	\$662,467,430.00

*Note: N/A stands for Not Available. Data may not be available for one of two reasons: a program is newly enacted or newly implemented and there is no official data or a court has issued an injunction barring the program from moving forward.*

## GROWTH IN STATES WITH PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

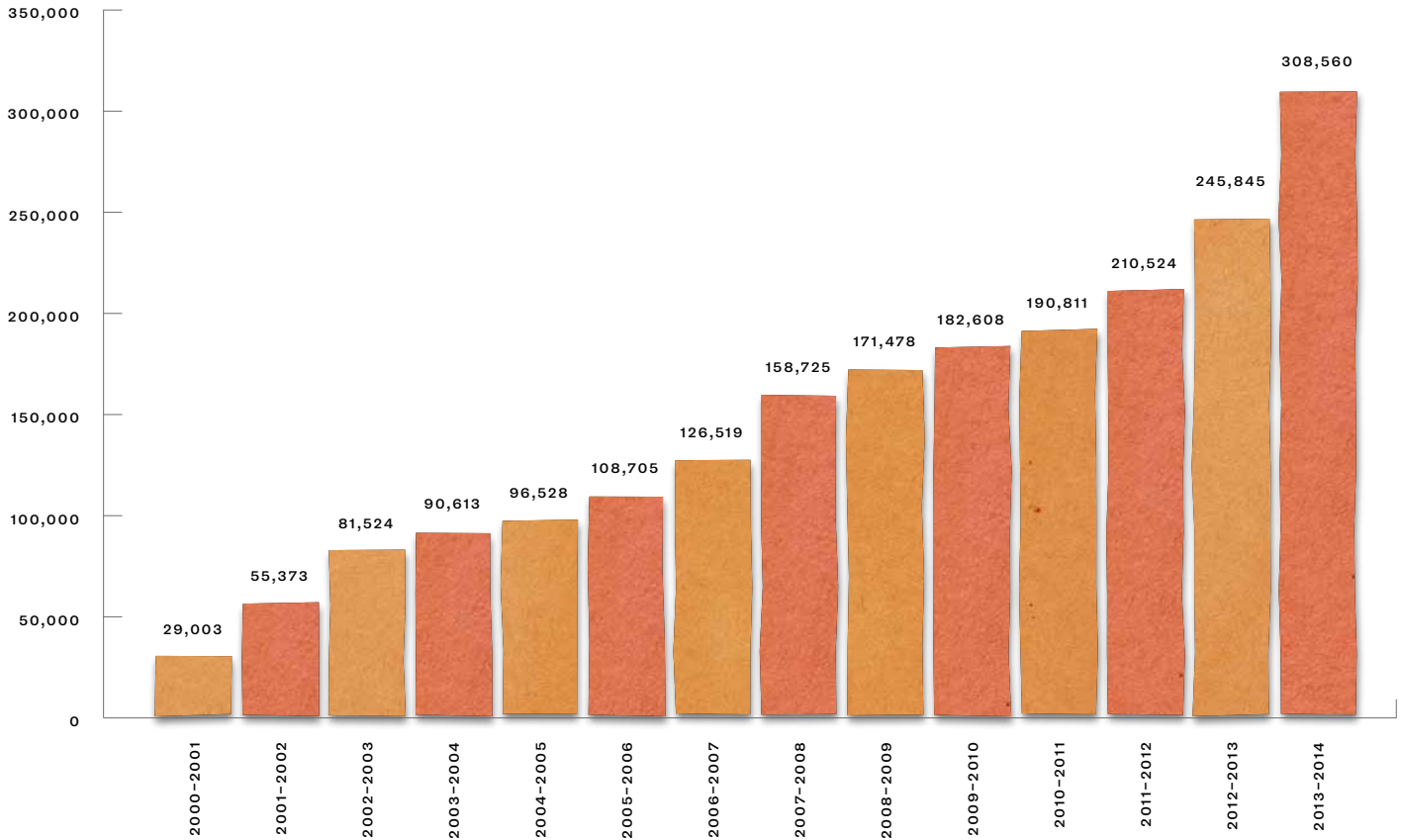


## 39 PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

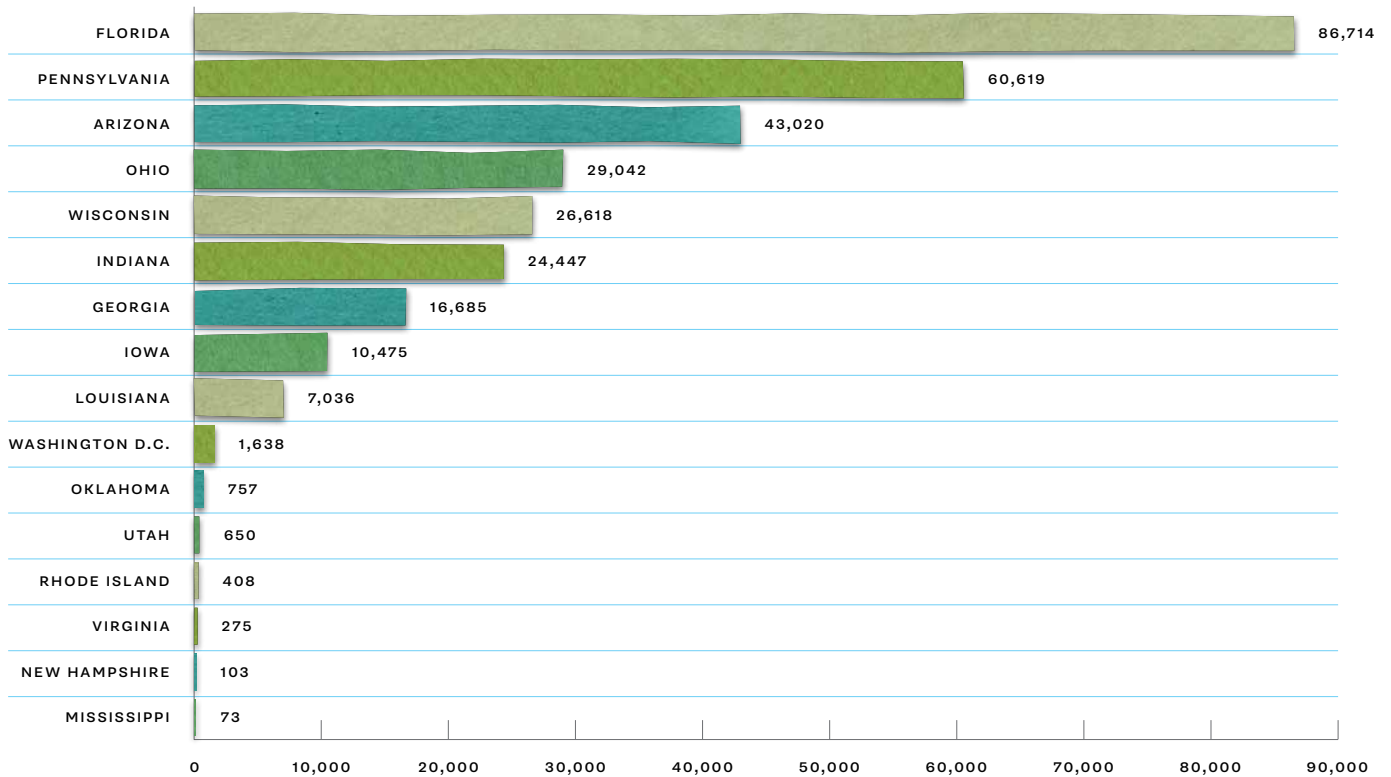


\* Individual Tuition Tax Credits: an individual state income tax credit of significant size for educational expenses, including private school tuition. While individual tuition tax credits currently exist in a small number of states, the Alliance only officially counts Alabama's Parent Refundable Tax Credits because it is the first credit that is sufficiently large enough to affect a family's ability to place their child in private school.

## RECENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH IN SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS



## 2013-14 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY STATE



# Educational Choice Growth: New Programs in 2013



## **ALABAMA:**

### **TAX CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS**

A scholarship tax credit for low-income students zoned to attend public schools designated as failing. Low-income students who are not zoned to attend a failing school are eligible if there are unused scholarship funds once the school year has begun.

### **PARENT REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS**

An individual tuition tax credit available to parents who transfer their children who are enrolled or assigned to a failing public school to a non-failing public or private school.

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## **MISSISSIPPI:**

### **MISSISSIPPI SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH SPEECH-LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS PROGRAM**

A special needs voucher program that allows students with speech-language impairments to attend private special-purpose schools that emphasize instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention.

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## **NORTH CAROLINA:**

### **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

A statewide voucher program for students from low-income families.

### **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS**

A voucher program that allows children with disabilities to receive grants to cover private school tuition and related special-education expenses.

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## **OHIO:**

### **INCOME-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

A means-tested voucher program for students from low-income families. Starting with students entering kindergarten, one grade level will be added for participation in the program per year.

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## **SOUTH CAROLINA:**

### **EDUCATIONAL CREDIT FOR EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS CHILDREN**

A scholarship tax credit program for students with disabilities.

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## **WISCONSIN:**

### **WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM**

A statewide voucher program for low-income students who do not live in the City of Milwaukee or the Racine Unified School District.

# The Research Reality of Educational Choice

Independent research supports the need for—and the benefits of—school choice. Read what the research says about school choice.

## GRADUATION RATES

### WASHINGTON, D.C.:

Students who used their voucher in the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program **graduated at a rate of 91%**, which is more than 20 percentage points higher than those interested in the program who did not receive a scholarship and 29 percent higher than the graduation rate of D.C. Public Schools.

### WISCONSIN:

Students participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program had a **76.6% on-time graduation** rate—7.2 percentage points higher than the graduation rate of students in Milwaukee Public Schools.

## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

### NEW YORK:

African American participants in a private school choice program were **24% more likely to enroll in college** as a result of receiving a voucher.

The study by the Brookings Institution and Harvard University also shows that African American enrollment rates in selective colleges more than doubled among voucher students, and the rate of enrollment in full-time colleges increased by 31 percent.

Using a randomized experiment to measure the impact of school vouchers on college enrollment, researchers tracked privately funded voucher students in New York City over a nearly 15-year period.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

### WASHINGTON, D.C.:

The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program boosted student reading scores, as the use of a scholarship increased reading achievement by an **extra 3.7 months of additional learning** over three years.

### FLORIDA:

Students participating in the Florida Scholarship Tax Credit **performed just as well—if not better**—than students nationally. “The typical student participating in the program tended to maintain his or her relative position in comparison with others nationwide. It is important to note that these national comparisons pertain to all students nationally, and not just low-income students,” the study’s author, David Figlio, said. In a later study, Dr. Figlio also found that the typical student participating in the program gained a year’s worth of learning in a year’s worth of time.

## TAXPAYER SAVINGS

### FLORIDA:

The nonpartisan Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability reported that: “The corporate income tax credit scholarship program produces a net savings to the state. We estimate that in Fiscal Year 2007–08, taxpayers **saved \$1.49 in state education funding** for every dollar loss in corporate income tax revenue due to credits for scholarship contributions.”

### WISCONSIN:

An ongoing state-sponsored fiscal analysis of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program found that the voucher program is producing growing net statewide taxpayer savings. In fiscal year 2010, the **estimated savings was \$46.7 million**, and the estimated net fiscal benefit in fiscal year 2011 is \$51.9 million.

*Students at St. Andrew's Catholic School study science.*





Scott Foresman  
Science  
New High

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# Educational Choice in the News

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NATIONAL

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Vouchers Can Help Kids and Big-City Politicians: Politicians in cash-strapped municipalities can give families choice while saving money.

Oct. 7, 2013 *The Wall Street Journal*  
By Kevin P. Chavous

WISCONSIN

JSONLINE.COM

MILWAUKEE · WISCONSIN  
**JOURNAL SENTINEL**  
PULITZER PRIZE WINNER 2008 · 2010 · 2011

Voucher enrollment more than doubles in Racine  
January 18, 2013 *Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel*  
By Erin Richards

OHIO

## THE PLAIN DEALER

School voucher programs expand,  
giving Ohio more programs than any other state

July 22, 2013 *Cleveland Plain Dealer*  
By Edith Starzyk

INDIANA

**INDYSTAR**★COM

Explosive growth could soon make Indiana top state for school vouchers

October 9, 2013 *Indystar.com*  
By Scott Elliot



LOUISIANA

# The Times-Picayune

School voucher enrollment goes up 38 percent despite lawsuits, budget fight.

October 21, 2013 *Times-Picayune*

By Danielle Dreilinger

ARIZONA

## azfamily.com

Online school growing in popularity with Arizona students, parents

August 19, 2013 *AZfamily.com*

By Lisa Fuller-Magee

WISCONSIN

## wisconsinrapidstribune.com

School voucher program will revolutionize our education system

August 21, 2013 *Wisconsin Rapids Tribune*

By Jim Scott

TENNESSEE

## THE CHATTANOOGAN.COM

School Choice Is the Best Way to Improve Education

August 25, 2013 *The Chattanooga*

By Lamar Alexander

ALABAMA



Alabama Accountability Act's parental choice  
is an extension of the civil rights act

August 25, 2013 *AL.com*

By Reb. H.K. Matthews

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# Educational Choice in the News

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## ARIZONA: KIM MARTINEZ



Kim Martinez invites kids to the Alliance for School Choice's Summer Kids Tour at Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium

July 3, 2013

## LOUISIANA: LISA LESLIE



Former WNBA star talks scholarship program with students

October 22, 2013 *WVLA-TV*

By: Kris Cusanza

## LOUISIANA / NATIONAL: KEVIN CHAVOUS



Education reform advocates debate school voucher program

March 19, 2013 *WDSU.com*

By: LaTonya Norton

## ARIZONA: CHILDREN



From Phoenix event in July 2013 where AFC handed out 300 backpacks filled with educational choice information on the ESA program, along with school supplies.

July 2013

## LOUISIANA: ANN DUPLESSIS



Groups want DOJ to drop challenge to voucher program

August 27, 2013 *WWL.com*

By: Ashley Rodrigue

## LOUISIANA: PARENT & CHILD



Battle over voucher program heats up

September 24, 2013 *WDSU-TV*

By: Casey Ferrand



*Arizona Alliance for School Choice  
back-to-school event Tucson, AZ,  
July 2013. ASC volunteers stuffed  
backpacks with ED Choice info and  
school supplies and handed them  
out to 2,000 kids.*



2013

## Year in Review

As Thomas Edison stated, “There is no substitute for hard work.” The American Federation For Children and the Alliance for School Choice have continued to work with state leaders and lawmakers around the country to ensure that children receive the high-quality education they deserve.

The past year has been one of big ideas and bold strategies, which have also shown great dividends of the combined efforts of parents, community leaders, and education reformers. America is in the midst of an education revolution! Parental and community support for choice programs is growing nationwide.

Thanks to our nations’ leaders and lawmakers more than 300,000 students nationwide are receiving the high-quality education that best fits their needs. Education choice continues to be a unifying topic, bringing people of all

backgrounds together. Political lines were blurred in many states as leaders from both sides of the aisle came together to give children the best educational options in 2013.

Eight new statewide programs were added this year, allowing for 39 private school choice programs to exist in 18 states, Washington, D.C., and Douglas County, Colorado, accounting for more than 1.5 million scholarship opportunities. In the past three years, 20 new publicly funded private school choice programs have been enacted, with more than \$1 billion in public funds going to support these programs.

### WHAT LEADERS HAVE TO SAY

*“To oppose school choice is to put the wishes of the adults who control the status quo ahead of the needs of our children. To oppose school choice is to oppose equal opportunity. ... I believe we’ve got an economic and a moral imperative to provide school choice and a quality education to every child, every student in America.”*

—Gov. Bobby Jindal (R-LA)

*“For me to look a constituent in the face and tell them that they have to go to this school because they live in this place is fundamentally wrong. [It’s important to] fix public schools, but I can’t wait. Each year we lose kids. ... That has to be a family discussion. They have the right to choose that.”* —Rep. Marcus Brandon (D-NC)

*“With the dramatic changes that have taken place in our society and culture over the years, we must acknowledge that our current education system is in need of serious reform. ... As an elected official, it is my duty to make the most educated and responsible decisions for my constituents. Educational choice puts the power over a child’s education in the hands of those who know a child’s needs best: parents.”* —Rep. John DeBerry (D-TN)

*“In the end, our goal is simple: ensure every child—regardless of where they are from or what their family income is—has access to a great education.”*

—Gov. Scott Walker (R-WI)

*“Too many Americans are trapped in a public education system that does not do our children justice. We have a system in which politicians and bureaucrats have too much control, parents have too little, and students’ needs are not being met. Everywhere it is tried: school choice has allowed parents to give their children the education they deserve.”* —Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)



## Arizona

### ARIZONA EXPANDS ESA PROGRAM STATEWIDE WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Arizona is finding itself a marquee state in educational choice due to the variety of options offered to parents. Parental choice options in Arizona include: Tuition Tax Credit Scholarships, open enrollment, charter schools, and Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.

Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs), unique to Arizona, allow parents to customize their child's education according to how they learn. ESAs give more freedom to parents than any other educational choice program in the entire country. Parents are given funds by the state to pay for private school tuition, online curriculum, home schooling, tutors, and therapists. Approximately 5,500 new students can receive an ESA each year. ESAs are currently available to students with special needs, children in failing schools, foster kids, and children from active duty military families. Several other eligibility expansion proposals are being considered by Arizona legislators including eligibility by income and automatically qualifying children of first responders. This would open up the ESA program to half of Arizona's student population.

The program is so promising that one Arizona public school district wants the authority to offer ESAs to families in their boundaries as a way to help deal with their growing student population. ESAs are also garnering interest from other states including Oklahoma, Iowa, and Mississippi, where lawmakers are considering similar scholarships as an educational choice to their families.



*Senator Barbara McGuire helps hand out educational choice information and backpacks. The event was at the city pool in Casa Grande, AZ in July 2013.*



## Florida

### FLORIDA PROGRAM CONTINUES TO LEAD NATION



*More than 600 Step Up students sent Florida Gov. Rick Scott handmade cards to celebrate his birthday.*

Florida has long been a leader in revolutionizing education across the United States. The tax credit scholarship program reached its enrollment cap last year, resulting in an automatic cap increase. For the 2013–14 school year nearly 60,000 students are enrolled in the program.

Legislators and state leaders worked in bipartisan fashion to increase public charter school funding by 70 percent over 2012, creating a \$90.6 million budget for the program and allowing for additional charter school teacher pay raises and school-supply bonuses.

For the 2014 legislative session, supporters of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program are working toward the goal of expanding and strengthening the existing program.





## Indiana

### INDIANA PROGRAM CONTINUES EXPONENTIAL GROWTH



*Gov. Mike Pence signs Indiana Voucher Expansion Bill into law—May 9, 2013.*

Resounding cries of joy from Indiana parents were heard across the state in 2013 as the Indiana Supreme Court unanimously upheld the state's voucher program. The Indiana program has shown remarkable growth each year, doubling in the number of participants. At inception in 2011, the program was the nation's largest first-year scholarship program. The numbers have increased from 3,919 students to receiving over 20,000 applications just two years later. Only further proof that Hoosier parents are in full support of the program.

The Indiana Legislature continued to strengthen the program in 2013 and made kindergartners zoned for failing schools eligible for the Choice Scholarship Program.

Scholarship amounts for K–8 students also increased with the enhancements from the enacted legislation.

Indiana students ranked second overall in terms of educational growth on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores for 2013. Hoosier students in fourth and eighth grade scored higher than the national average in both reading and math. Advocates of the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program see the improved test scores as a direct reflection of parental choice within the state's education system.



## Louisiana

### LOUISIANA PROGRAM GROWS AND OFFERS FAMILIES MORE CHOICES STATEWIDE

To put it mildly, 2013 was a roller coaster year for the Louisiana Scholarship Program. A record number of children—nearly 12,000—applied in the spring to participate in the program, which allows students from failing and underperforming schools and those entering kindergarten for the first time the opportunity to attend the private school of their parents' choice. Nearly 94 percent of parents surveyed in the spring reported they were happy with their child's academic progress, showing not only strong demand for this life-changing program, but robust satisfaction with the program as well.

Despite vocal opposition from choice opponents and various legal attacks—including a suit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice—the program's funding was restored in June 2013.

A poll conducted in the fall of 2013 found that the Louisiana Scholarship Program remains popular with the state's residents. The poll found that 57 percent of Louisiana residents support the voucher program.

In October, former Louisiana State Senator Ann Duplessis, a Democrat and educational choice champion, joined the Louisiana Federation for Children as President, reaching out to legislators from around the state to build support for the program that for more than 6,700 students is an indispensable lifeline.



## Ohio

### BUCKEYE STATE OFFERS FAMILIES MOST EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS



*Governor John R. Kasich signs the nation's newest school choice program—the Income-Based Scholarship Program—into law.*

Ohio is home to five different scholarship programs, making it the most of any state. The Alliance for School Choice works closely with School Choice Ohio to ensure that parents across the state are aware of their educational options, and it works with state leaders to ensure the scholarship programs continue to work for the kids.

As the April showers rolled in, more than 2,000 parents, students, and school leaders joined in echoing their support for choice and to encourage elected officials to support an expanded educational choice program. By June, Gov. John Kasich was putting pen to paper, solidifying the choice expansion and the newest Income Based Scholarship Program. One grade will be added each year through the next 13 years. The expansion will be funded

separately from EdChoice (the state's current educational choice program) and will not count against EdChoice's 60,000 enrollment cap.

Revolutionary changes took place throughout the state as the number of private schools accepting EdChoice students began to increase. Ohio went from 31 participating counties in the EdChoice programs to 62 counties participating in seven months.

The year ended on a high note for Ohio, as the number of students using the program jumped to more than 31,000 students statewide.

*A teacher helps a scholarship student with her art class assignment.*



## Faces of Educational Choice

No conversation about the success of educational choice is complete without stories about its actual beneficiaries—the students. Here are just a few of the amazing stories of kids who, thanks to their life-changing scholarships, are reaching new heights.

Elias



Elias Pittman is perhaps the cheekiest child you'll ever meet. He is playful, energetic, and curious, and thanks to his new school, Good Shepherd Nativity School, in the heart of New Orleans, he is also academically challenged. Elias, now eight years old, participates in the Louisiana Scholarship Program, which allows more than 6,700 low-income students in Louisiana to escape failing public schools and attend the high-performing private school of their parents' choice. Since he was awarded a scholarship in 2012, Elias gets the individualized attention from teachers and disciplined classroom structure his mother, Coretta, knows he needs to become a future leader. She is so dedicated to Elias' school and confident in the Louisiana Scholarship Program that she volunteers at his school multiple days each week. Says Coretta:

"I'm gonna make sure that no matter what he wants to do, he is equipped. We're going to take advantage of this scholarship. It's a godsend."

**STUDENT: 2ND GRADE / LOUISIANA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In my school there was a lot of violence and when I was in second grade a kid brought a knife to school.

Amori



**STUDENT: 5TH GRADE / INDIANA'S CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Amori Curiel, 10, remembers a scary situation at her public school, which has stayed with her for years.

Shortly after that her parents put her in private school using a voucher from the Indiana Choice Program. Amori now attends Holy Spirit Catholic School in east Indianapolis. Her mother, Ana Curiel, says she sees a big difference in the quality of education for her kids.

"There's more interest in academics. The teachers are more involved and the parents are more involved."

Amori, now in fifth grade, loves science as much as she loves her school and looks forward to impressing her parents with straight As this year.

"I'll be proud of myself because I'll know I accomplished my goal."

# Coreanna



Seventeen-year-old Coreana Carson is the third child in her family to use a private school voucher from the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and the third child in her family to be a top student in her class. This year, Coreana is a senior at Hope High School in Milwaukee. As she nears graduation, she is challenging herself to walk in her older brother and sister's footsteps. Her two oldest siblings also graduated from Hope, both as class valedictorians. Not wanting to break the streak, Coreana studies constantly and has developed a love of physics. She loves her school because she has the support of her fellow students and teachers to help her achieve her goal as class valedictorian.

Coreana plans on emulating her older siblings all the way through college. Her oldest sister already has her bachelor's degree and her older brother is currently attending Marquette University. Coreana hopes to study alongside her brother, at Marquette, right after graduation.

**STUDENT: 12TH GRADE / MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM**

We're like a family in my school. It's not too big and it's not too small. I'm very grateful that I'm allowed to go to this school because of the voucher program.

Anita



**PARENT / ARIZONA'S EMPOWERMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS**

Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) allow parents to truly customize their child's education. Having this kind of unprecedented educational choice has changed the quality of life for families like Anita Belcher and her two small boys.

Anita moved to Arizona by herself with very little money and her two young boys in tow. Anita, an incredibly determined single mother, is devoted to taking care of her sons, who both have special needs. Her oldest son, seven-year-old Markeale, is autistic and was struggling in his public school's special education program. Anita couldn't stand the thought of her child slipping through the cracks so she turned to the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program to help her afford a better school for Markeale.

"The first week he was at his new school he cried! He literally cried because he didn't want to leave. It brought me to tears," said Anita. "That's the great thing about the scholarship, you get to decide where you want to place your child or if you even want to home school him."

Thanks to her life-changing ESA, this year Markeale's education fits his needs perfectly. Now Anita is watching Markeale blossom in his learning, instead of struggling. During his second month in his new school, Markeale earned the award of "Student of the Month."

# Jackie



Jackie Doerr had four young children of her own when she made the decision to adopt a fifth child. When she brought Correnn home from the hospital, the newborn was suffering from addictions to three different drugs. Those first weeks were touch and go. Correnn started life with her little body in immense pain as she recovered from the brutal withdrawals. Correnn eventually overcame her rocky start and became a healthy, happy child. Her second big struggle in life happened when she began having problems in her public school. Jackie knew once again she needed to step in and fight for Correnn's life. Jackie started searching for educational choices. Correnn helped too by letting her mom know exactly where she wanted to go to school. The school Correnn picked was a private school Jackie could not afford. It was at that time Jackie discovered a wonderful program in her state, the Choice Scholarship Program .

Today, at nine years old, Correnn is able to attend a private school of both her and her family's choice only because of the Choice Scholarship Program. Jackie was so impressed with Correnn's progress at her new private school that she applied for a voucher on behalf of her teenaged daughter Libby, who was a victim of bullying. Jackie and her daughters share a loving hug realizing how far they've come together and how grateful they are for each other, their school, and Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program.

**PARENT / INDIANA'S CHOICE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**



Mitzy

It's a total 180. It's so much better — communication-wise, academically, they want parents to be involved.



**PARENT / LOUISIANA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Mitzi Dillon is fighting for the right for her two children to attend the school that works best for them. In August, the U.S. Dept. of Justice filed a lawsuit to try to stop the Louisiana Scholarship Program from continuing in parishes with decades-old open desegregation orders. While the DOJ has since changed its tactics for trying to block access to the scholarship program, the battle continues to rage on.

Since then, Dillon committed to do whatever she could to help save this life-changing option for her two boys, including being a part of the lawsuit herself. The judge overseeing the case denied parents' rights to have their voice heard in the case about students' rights to educational freedom, but Dillon is determined not to let her resolve waiver after seeing the positive results her two sons have experienced at their new scholarship school.

Since beginning at Northlake Christian School in Covington, Louisiana, both her children's grades have soared. Taylor, in 10th grade, is getting the attention and structure she needs from her teachers to excel.

Titus, in eighth grade, saw his grades rise from Ds and Fs to As and Bs, thanks to teachers who had smaller class sizes and more time to invest in him. Mitzi says her heart overflows with joy at the positive changes she is seeing in both her children:

"The teachers really shine—they are taking their time teaching, explaining and they seem to care more about the students. The teachers must be happy in their job in order to do so. My kids always come home talking about something fun, something new they learned, something positive."

Nydia

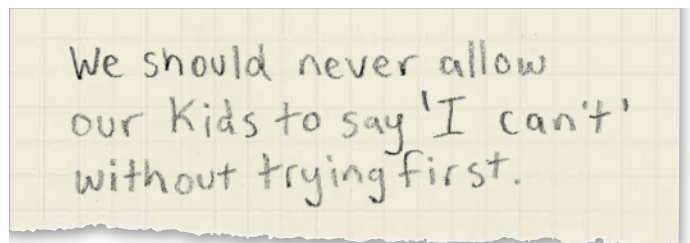


Arizona's School Tuition Organization Scholarships, funded by the Corporate Tuition Tax Credit program, help more than 6,000 Arizona students attend private schools. Nydia Salazar is one of those students.

**STUDENT: 10TH GRADE / CORPORATE SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

Nydia, now 15, knew since she was a little girl that she wanted to attend St. Mary's High School in Phoenix, AZ. Her mother told her she had to maintain high grades and work hard in order to attend the private school known for having a rigorous curriculum. From then on, Nydia worked hard to stay on the honor roll and stayed busy with sports and activities. When it came time for high school, Nydia's mother Maria, a single parent who immigrated from Peru when Nydia was very young, could not afford the tuition at St. Mary's High School. Thanks to a scholarship funded by the Corporate Tuition Tax Credit Program, Nydia realized her dream of attending St. Mary's. Now a sophomore, Nydia is studying harder than ever with college as her next goal and, eventually, medical school.

This scholarship couldn't have gone to a more appreciative, worthy, or focused student.



— Maria Salazar, in response to overcoming difficult odds and obtaining a scholarship to pay for Nydia's tuition.

Nevada



**PARENT / MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM**

Nevada is a young mother who has made education and giving back top priorities for her family. A single mother with a lot on her plate, Nevada has earned her master's degree and works a full-time job at St. Joseph's Academy in Milwaukee, WI. She is a family advocate and helps parents discover the program that, in large part, makes her success possible. Because of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, Nevada is able to afford tuition for her two small children to attend St. Joseph's Academy. She says the smaller class sizes and great literacy curriculum have both helped her daughters learn and succeed in school.

# Athletes and Educational Choice



**CHAMPIONS  
FOR CHOICE  
IN EDUCATION**

Launched in 2012, the Champions for Choice in Education effort is a project of the American Federation for Children and the Alliance for School Choice—the nation’s leading educational choice organizations—aimed at engaging athletes and celebrities in the effort to increase educational choice by providing all students with the opportunity to receive a quality education that works best for their needs.

Champions for Choice in Education had an exciting 2013–14! The Champions for Choice in Education initiative engaged athletes throughout the country, arranging pro-educational choice athletes and celebrities to assist with highlighting the movement and implementation efforts in a handful of states, including Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana, as well as D.C..

Lisa Leslie was featured at the 2013 AFC National Policy Summit, where she held a Q&A session with Kevin P. Chavous. Leslie also traveled to Washington, D.C. to speak in the Nation’s Capital for National School Choice Week, and afterwards, led a group of students to meet with members of Congress.

After months of work, preparation, and countless hours, the initiative released its very first PSA, “Educational Choice Now.” The PSA features more than a dozen celebrities, including Olympic gold medalists, up and coming athletes, hall of famers, Academy Award winners, and others. The PSA went viral and in less than three weeks racked up more than 30,000 views.

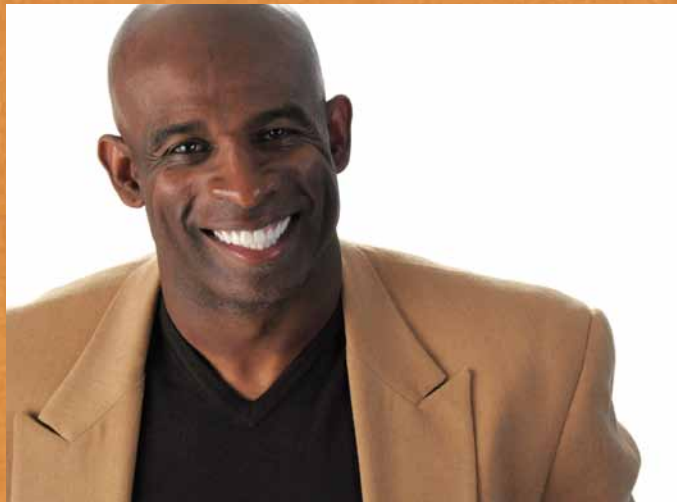


## Lisa Leslie

**COLLEGE:** University of Southern California

**PROS:** WNBA center for Los Angeles Sparks from 1997–2009, four-time Olympic gold medalist, two-time WNBA champion, three-time WNBA MVP

Four-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Leslie is widely known for her slam-dunk basketball career in the WNBA—literally—when, in 2002, she became the first player to dunk a ball in a WNBA game. She did a lot during her 12-year professional career, including winning multiple championships and MVP awards. Lisa’s passion for winning, however, is perhaps only matched by her passion for fostering the next generation of leaders through quality education and challenging academic settings. Through her work with the Alliance for School Choice, Lisa has taken on a new role as an outspoken advocate for educational choice. She has committed herself to putting all options—whether they be traditional public, public charter, or private—on the table to help kids. Using her platform as an international sports star, Lisa travels around the country to highlight the successes of educational choice for families in need.



## Deion Sanders

**COLLEGE:** Florida State University

**PROS:** Major League Baseball (New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves, Cincinnati Reds); National Football League (Atlanta Falcons, San Francisco 49ers, Dallas Cowboys, Washington Redskins)

A naturally gifted athlete, Sanders is the only athlete to hit a home run and score a touchdown in the same seven-day period. Sanders played professional baseball for nine years and professional football for 16 years.

He signed on to play with the New York Yankees, taking the outfield in the summer of 1989 for the franchise's Triple-A club in Columbus, Ohio. When he was called up to the parent club, he hit his first home run against Seattle on September 5. That same week, after a protracted contract negotiation period, Sanders and the Falcons agreed on a four-year deal. Sanders played in the 1992 World Series for the Atlanta Braves. Sanders won back-to-back Super Bowl championships, first in 1994, when he helped lead the San Francisco 49ers to a Super Bowl championship, and in 1995 with the Dallas Cowboys.

After leaving professional sports, Sanders founded Prime Prep Academy charter school in 2012, and he became a sought after football analyst, currently working for the NFL Network. Inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August, 6, 2011, Sanders currently resides in Texas.



## Jalen Rose

**COLLEGE:** University of Michigan; Member of the “Fab Five” from 1992–1993

**PROS:** NBA small forward and shooting guard for six teams from 1994–2007

While he may be most recognized for his role as an NBA superstar, Jalen Rose has a dynamic background that includes founding a charter school, helping at-risk youth, and giving back to his hometown of Detroit, Michigan. By all accounts, Jalen is a true leader in the movement to improve our nation's education system. Jalen prides himself on being a college graduate and works locally to ensure that youth in Detroit have the same opportunity to earn a college degree. Noticing a decline in the city's educational system, Jalen took it upon himself to start the Jalen Rose Leadership Academy, an open enrollment, public charter school, in 2011. The Academy provides a leadership-focused education that aims to transform Detroit's community into a thriving economic landscape. Through his work in Detroit, Jalen has encouraged other athletes to play a larger role in education reform in their local communities and across the nation.

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE  
FOR CHILDREN

GO BIG

GO BOLD!



# Educational Choice for Children: Go Big, Go Bold

## SUMMIT REVIEW

The American Federation for Children and Alliance for School Choice's annual National Policy Summit brought a BIG and BOLD agenda for the event in 2013. The Policy Summit began in 2010 as a vehicle to bring elected officials, policy and business leaders, philanthropists, and media together under one roof to discuss the importance of educational freedom for all children. Each year the Summit has grown, and now opens its doors to hundreds of educational choice supporters lending their thoughts and experiences to the discussion.



The speaker line up was as bold as the conversations and ideas expressed about advancing meaningful education reforms. The summit featured panels on the role of accountability in publicly funded private school choice programs and the importance of providing parents with reliable information about their school choices.

Indiana's Governor Mike Pence gave the keynote address on the opening evening. The state of Indiana remained a national leader in educational choice, expanding their voucher program in 2013—a program which has doubled in size each year.

The second day of the Summit was opened by former White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry. "This is about the effort to make school choice truly bipartisan. There's an agenda here, and it's about our children. We've got to work together to make life better for them. Give them the kind of schools, education, and opportunities they deserve in a country that is as great as this one. My suggestion is that we think of this movement as part of the antidote to the poison that has now invaded our political system," McCurry said.

His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, provided inspirational words and motivation to continue the battle to advance parental choice. He discussed the importance of helping low-income children gain access to high-quality schools.

Former WNBA star Lisa Leslie and our Executive Counsel Kevin P. Chavous explored why Lisa is so passionate about educational choice and her decision to become a leader in the education revolution.

The most moving parts of the summit were the firsthand accounts of student success as a result of educational choice from students like Denisha Merriweather and Sandeep Thomas, along with parents like Tera Myers and Shelia Jackson. They all shared touching, personal accounts on the power of educational choice and how it has changed their lives for the better.



2013 Policy Summit speakers, L to R: Mike McCurry, Sandeep Thomas, Denisha Merriweather

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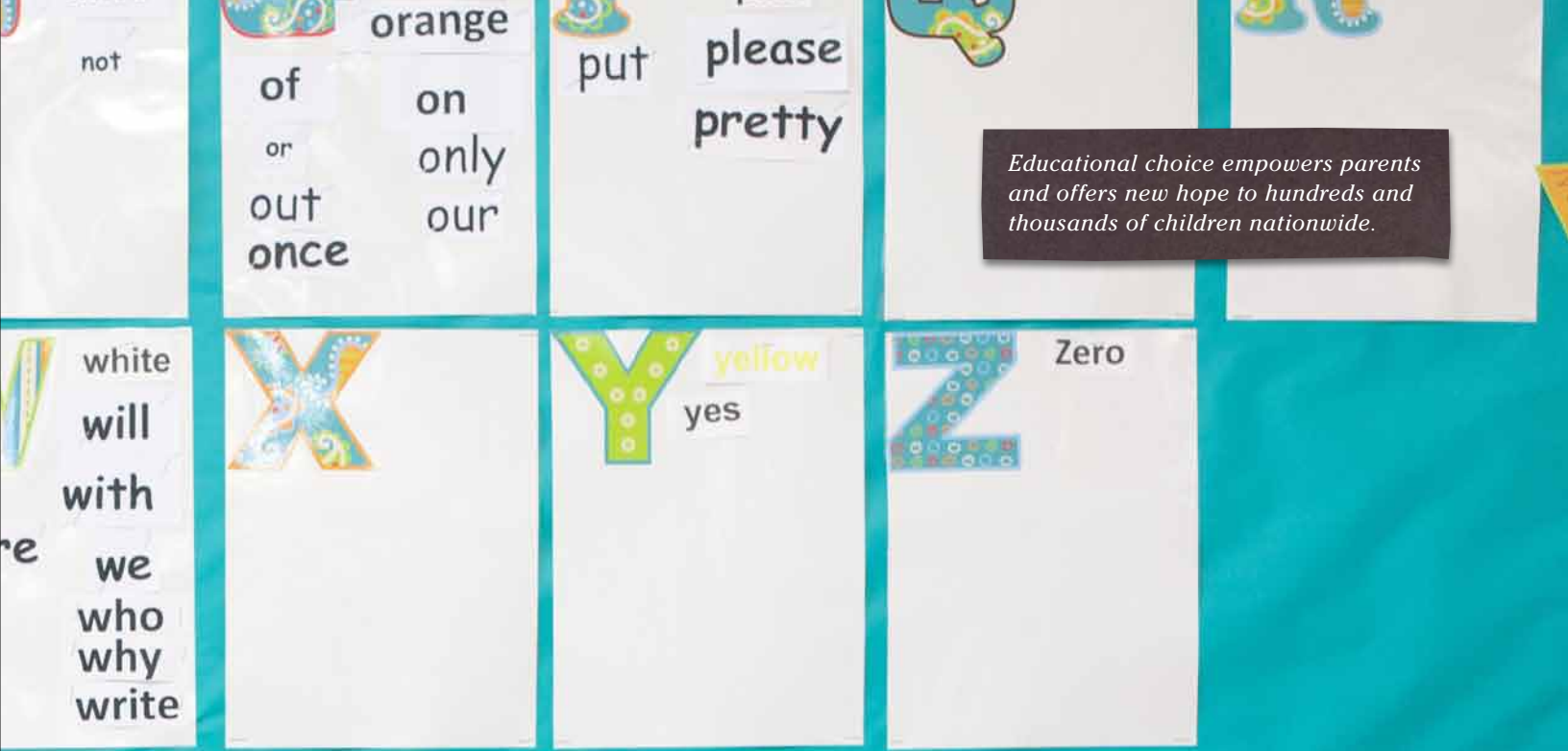
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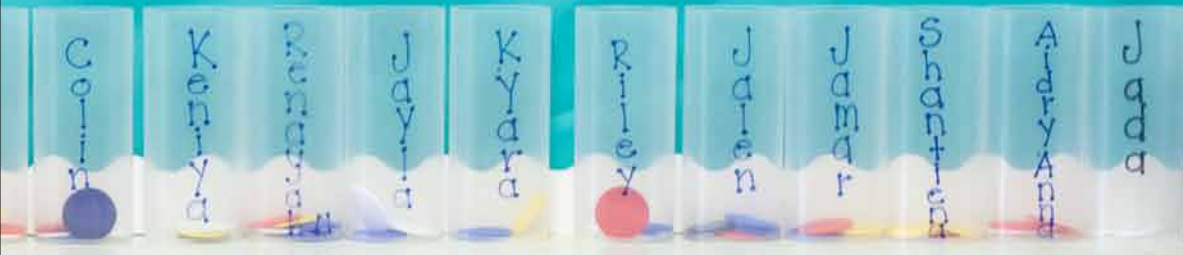
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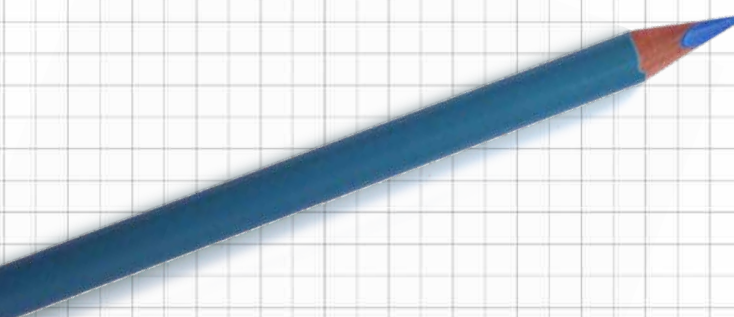




*Educational choice empowers parents and offers new hope to hundreds and thousands of children nationwide.*



# Timeline of Educational Choice



1990

The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program—the nation's first and longest-running voucher program—is enacted.

1995

The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program, the second publicly funded private school choice program in the nation, is created in Ohio's biennial budget.

1997

The first scholarship tax credit program is created in Arizona, which allows individuals to donate to School Tuition Organizations that provide scholarships to students to attend private school.

1999

Florida enacts the nation's first private school choice program specifically tailored to students with special needs.

2001

More than 50,000 students participate in private school choice programs across the nation.

The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship is signed into law, creating the nation's most accountable scholarship tax credit program and a model for the nation.

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit goes into effect.

2002

The United States Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of school voucher programs in *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*.

2004

President George W. Bush signs the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program into law, creating the first federally funded voucher program in the nation. The program boasts a 91 percent graduation rate for participating students.

2005

More than 100,000 students participate in private school choice programs across the nation.

Utah creates the Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship. The program is named after an autistic student who, thanks to the program, attends the Pingree School for Children with Autism.

Ohio's Educational Choice Scholarship Program—the state's third school choice program—is enacted.

2006

Iowa and Arizona each enact means-tested scholarship tax credit programs.

## 2007

Georgia and Rhode Island each create private school choice programs—a special needs voucher program and a means-tested scholarship tax credit program, respectively.

## 2008

The Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program is enacted, and a New Orleans scholarship program is enacted in Louisiana.

## 2009

Indiana creates a scholarship tax credit program and Arizona's Lexie's Law transitions into a scholarship tax credit program.

## 2010

Louisiana and Oklahoma each enact special needs voucher programs.

## 2011

The Wall Street Journal calls 2011 "The Year of School Choice."

Seven new programs are enacted, including Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program, Wisconsin's Racine Parental Choice Program, and Ohio's Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program.

In addition, 11 programs are expanded, including the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

## 2012

Louisiana expands its Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program statewide and enacts a scholarship tax rebate program.

Pennsylvania expands its Educational Improvement Tax Credit program and creates the Educational Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit.

Arizona expands its educational savings account program and its individual scholarship tax credit program.

Mississippi, Virginia, and New Hampshire create new private school choice programs, and Florida and Ohio strengthen existing programs.

## 2013

There are now 39 private school choice programs in 18 states and the District of Columbia, serving nearly 309,000 children.

Eight new programs were enacted and six programs were expanded, improved, or strengthened.

Highlights included: Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Louisiana, Indiana

*and more  
GREAT things  
to come...*



# School Choice Programs by State

52

Alabama



54

Arizona



58

Douglas County,  
Colorado



60

Florida



62

Georgia



64

Indiana



67

Iowa



68

Louisiana



72

Mississippi



75

New Hampshire



76

North Carolina



78

Ohio



84

Oklahoma



86

Pennsylvania



88

Rhode Island



89

South Carolina



90

Utah



91

Virginia



92

Washington,  
D.C.



94

Wisconsin





# Alabama

## TAX CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS

New Program

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested and failing schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comply with health and safety codes</li> <li>• Conduct criminal background checks on employees</li> <li>• Demonstrate financial viability if they are to receive \$50,000 or more in scholarships</li> <li>• Annually administer the state achievement test or nationally recognized norm-referenced tests to scholarship students and provide test results to the state</li> <li>• Provide graduation rates of scholarship students to the state</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family income cannot exceed 150 percent of the median household income in Alabama (\$62,361 in 2012)</li> <li>• Zoned to attend a public school designated as failing (labeled as persistently failing by the State Department of Education, designated as failing by the State Superintendent of Education, or has been listed three or more times in the lowest six percent of public schools on the state assessment)</li> <li>• After Sept. 15 of each year, SGOs may award unaccounted scholarship funds to students whose family incomes do not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$47,100 for a family of four in 2013) whether or not they are assigned to a failing school</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use at least 95 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>• Conduct criminal background checks on all employees and board members</li> <li>• Make scholarships portable to any qualifying school</li> <li>• Spend a portion of expenditures on scholarships for low-income students (family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level, \$47,100 for family of four in 2013) equal to the percentage of low-income students in the county where the SGO expends the majority of its scholarships</li> <li>• Ensure that at least 75 percent of first-time recipients of scholarships were not enrolled in a private school during the previous year</li> <li>• Submit annually to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Data on accepted contributions</li> <li>– Data on scholarships awarded, including the amount awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price lunch program, and the percentage of first-time scholarship recipients who were enrolled in a public school the previous year</li> <li>– Financial audit performed by a certified public accountant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarship amounts determined by SGOs</li> </ul>
	<p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 percent of donation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 percent of tax liability, up to \$7,500 for individuals and couples</li> <li>• 50 percent of tax liability for corporations</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25 million</li> </ul>
<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013</li> </ul>	

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

Because this program was enacted in 2013, there has not yet been official reporting on the donations SGOs have received or scholarships granted at this time. However, the Alliance understands that \$24.7 million of the \$25 million statewide cap was reached in 2013, even though the program was not implemented until well into the year.



# Alabama

## PARENT REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

New Program

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual tuition tax credit             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failing schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 percent of average state per-pupil funding</li> <li>Tuition and fees</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled or assigned to attend a failing school (labeled as persistently failing by the State Department of Education, designated as failing by the State Superintendent of Education, or has been listed three or more times in the lowest six percent of public schools on the state assessment)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certification that the student was enrolled in or assigned to attend a failing school, certification that student was transferred to a non-failing public or private school, and proof of the cost of attendance at the non-failing public or private school</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2013</li> </ul>

### PROGRAM UPDATE

Individual tuition tax credits: an individual state income tax credit of significant size for educational expenses, including private school tuition.

While individual tuition tax credits currently exist in a small number of states, the Alliance only officially counts Alabama's parent refundable tax credits because it is the only credit that is sufficiently large enough to affect a family's ability to place their child in private school.

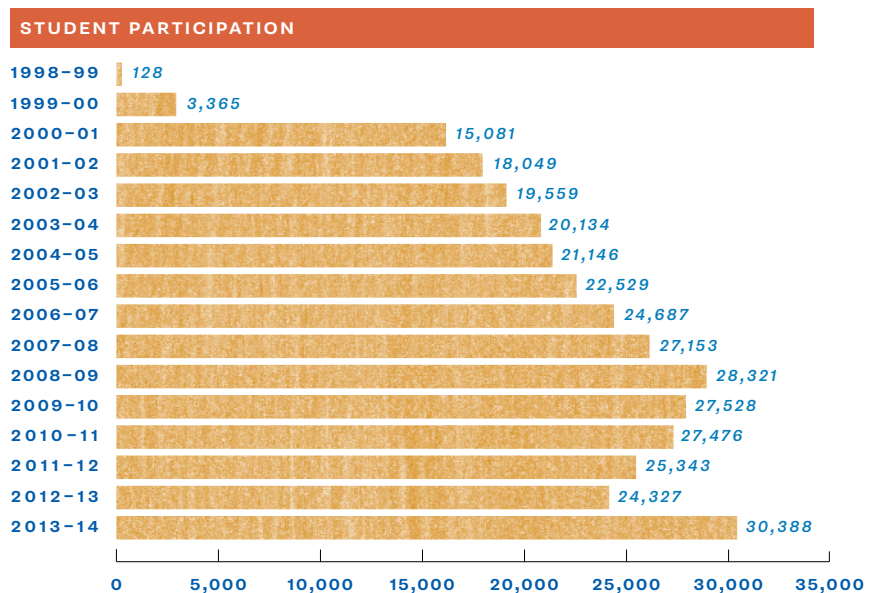


# Arizona

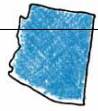
## INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION TAX CREDIT

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—individual</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety codes</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None specified in law</li> <li>Requirements may be determined by School Tuition Organizations</li> <li>Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition only</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>May allow donors to recommend student beneficiaries but shall not award, designate, or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of donor recommendations</li> <li>Cannot exchange recommendations of student beneficiaries with other donors</li> <li>Report annually to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on accepted contributions, grants awarded, dollar amount of scholarships granted to students who qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program, dollar amount of scholarships granted to those students whose household income falls between 185 percent and 342 percent of the federal poverty level (\$43,568 and \$80,541 for a family of four in 2013), amount of money being held for identified student scholarships in future years, list of participating schools with the number and dollar amount of scholarship awards received, the salary of the STO's top three officials for the fiscal year, and proof of independent review of financial statements by a certified public accountant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,034 single</li> <li>\$2,062 married couple</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1997</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	30,388
Schools Participating	337
STOs Operating	48
2013 Donations	\$75,033,039







# Arizona

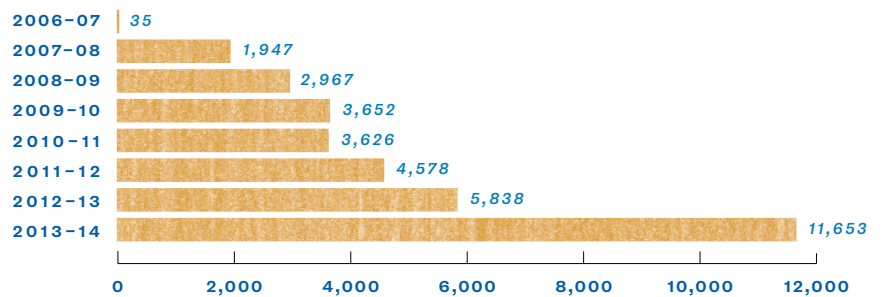
## CORPORATE SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION TAX CREDIT

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety codes</li> <li>Require teachers to be fingerprinted</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 185 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$80,600 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Attended public school the previous year or entering kindergarten</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5,000 (grades K–8)</li> <li>\$6,300 (grades 9–12)</li> <li>Caps increase by \$100 each year</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Must allow the state to verify that scholarships are awarded to students attending a qualified school</li> <li>Report annually to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on accepted contributions, grants awarded, amount of money being held for identified student scholarships in future years, list of participating schools with the number and dollar amount of scholarship awards received, salary of the STO's top three officials for the fiscal year, and proof of independent review of financial statements by a certified public accountant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$35.83 million (FY 2014)</li> <li>20 percent annual increase each year</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2006</li> </ul>

### DATA UPDATE

Scholarships Awarded	11,653
Schools Participating	216
STOs Operating	51
2013 Donations	\$29,858,865

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION



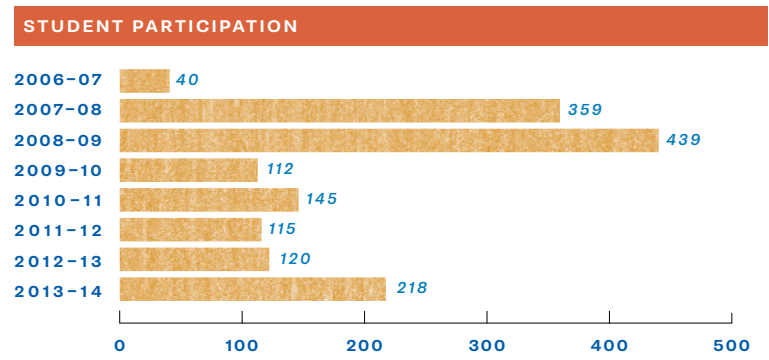


# Arizona

## LEXIE'S LAW

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarship tax credit—corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs and foster children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, handicap, familial status, or national origin, and must satisfy the requirements prescribed by federal law for private schools</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who received vouchers under Arizona’s two previous voucher programs (for foster children and students with disabilities) receive priority in scholarships</li> <li>• Attended public school as a full-time student for 100 days prior to the fiscal year</li> <li>• Students must:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Have been placed in foster care at any time before the student graduates from high school or obtains a GED, or</li> <li>– Have been identified as having a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, identified by a school district as a student with a disability, or identified as eligible to receive disability services from a school district</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition of private school</li> <li>– 90 percent of the cost to send the child to public school</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>• Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>• Allow the state to verify that scholarships are awarded to students attending a qualified school</li> <li>• Annually report to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Data on accepted contributions, grants awarded, amount of money being held for identified student scholarships in future years, list of participating schools with the number and dollar amount of scholarship awards received, salary of the STO’s top three officials for the fiscal year, and proof of independent review of financial statements by a certified public accountant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2009             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In 2009, this program transitioned from a voucher program to a scholarship tax credit program. Student enrollment data for years before 2009–10 is for the voucher program.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	218
Schools Participating	61
STOs Operating	51
2013 Donations	\$3,505,350





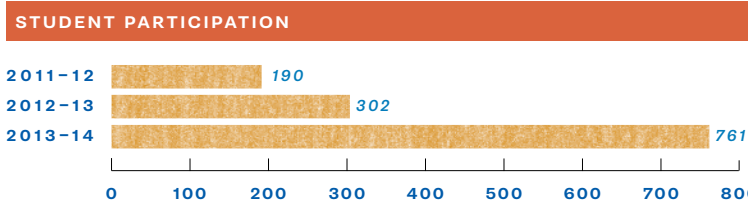
# Arizona

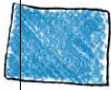
## ARIZONA EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS PROGRAM

Program Expanded Program Improved

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education savings account             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs and foster care</li> <li>– Active duty military families</li> <li>– Failing schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot discriminate</li> <li>• Cannot share, refund, or rebate any empowerment account monies with the parent or student</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Be identified as a child with a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or by a school district, or is eligible to receive special education services from a school district under state law and has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or</li> <li>– Have attended a public school or school district that received a “D” on the state accountability report card, or</li> <li>– Have a parent who is an active duty member of the U.S. military, or</li> <li>– Be adopted from the state foster care system or is placed with a family and has a case plan of adoption</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Attended public school as a full-time student for 100 days prior to the fiscal year and who transferred to a qualified private school, or participated in the Empowerment Scholarship Account Program in the previous year, or received a scholarship under Lexie’s Law</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90 percent of the charter school per-pupil base funding (takes into account grade and disability)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must sign an agreement to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide an education in the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies, and science</li> <li>– Not enroll student in a school district or charter school</li> <li>– Release the school district from all obligations to educate the student</li> <li>– Not accept a scholarship under any of Arizona’s tax credit scholarship programs</li> <li>– Use the money deposited in the empowerment account for purposes specified in the law</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Accounts Awarded	761
Schools Participating	58
2013 Expenditures	\$10,200,000





**Douglas County,  
Colorado**

**DOUGLAS COUNTY CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Universal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition of private school</li> <li>– 75 percent of state portion of per-pupil revenue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live in the Douglas County School District</li> <li>• Attended a Douglas County School District school for at least one year</li> <li>• Satisfy all admission requirements of the selected private school</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500</li> </ul>
	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be accredited by a recognized state or national accrediting organization</li> <li>• Demonstrate student achievement and growth results for participating students at least as strong as what district neighborhood and charter schools produce</li> <li>• Disclose financial history, including the past three years of audited financial statements and documentation showing adequate insurance policies</li> <li>• Private schools that have been in operation for fewer than three years must demonstrate the ability to indemnify the District for any loss if the school closes</li> <li>• Comply with building codes and have a safe school plan</li> <li>• Conduct criminal background checks on school employees</li> <li>• May not discriminate in employment or enrollment decisions</li> <li>• Must release participating students so the District can administer statewide or District assessments</li> <li>• Provide information on employment and enrollment policies, a description of student performance assessments, student conduct and discipline policies, description of governance and operations</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> </ul>

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

In response to litigation filed by opponents of educational choice, a Colorado court has issued an injunction barring the program from moving forward. Appeals to that decision have been filed.



*Students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.*

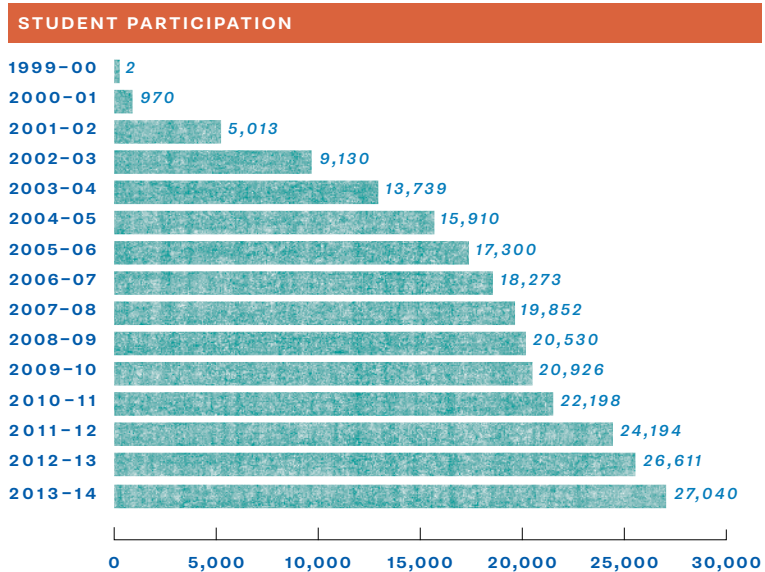


# Florida

## JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Amount of public school funding students would have received</li> <li>– Tuition and fees of private school</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have Individualized Education Program (IEP) or have an accommodation plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act</li> <li>• Attended public school in any of the five years prior to the 2010–11 fiscal year</li> <li>• Children of U.S. military personnel transferring are exempt from prior year public school attendance requirement</li> <li>• Children who received specialized instructional services under the Voluntary Pre-K Education Program (VPK) the previous school year are exempt from prior year public school attendance requirement</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be approved by the state</li> <li>• Submit to the state annual sworn compliance reports regarding all local and state health and safety codes</li> <li>• Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. s 2000d</li> <li>• Teachers and other school personnel working with scholarship recipients must undergo federal background checks</li> <li>• Teachers must have a bachelor's degree, three years of teaching experience, or special expertise</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Report student's progress to parents annually</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1999</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	27,040
Schools Participating	1,226
2013 Expenditures	\$168,890,916



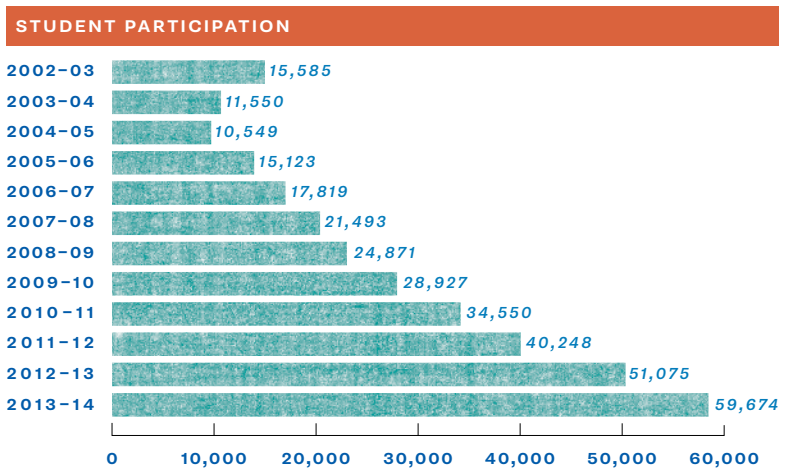


# Florida

## FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$4,335 for private school scholarship</li> <li>\$500 scholarship covering transportation to another public school</li> <li>The scholarship cap for 2012–13 is 68 percent of the per-pupil school funding formula. The cap increases four percent in any year in which the cap is raised until the cap reaches 80 percent</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Attended public school the previous year or entering kindergarten or first grade</li> <li>If a renewing student’s family income increases by 24 percent higher than the original entry threshold of the free or reduced-price lunch program, students are eligible for a partial scholarship</li> </ul>	<p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION (SFO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 97 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>SFOs with fewer than three years’ worth of audits must use 100 percent of donations for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Submit to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial and compliance audit performed by certified public accountant</li> <li>Quarterly reports on number of scholarship recipients and participating schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of state tax liability</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be approved by the state</li> <li>Submit to the state annual sworn compliance reports regarding all local and state health and safety codes</li> <li>Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. s 2000d</li> <li>Teachers and other school personnel working with scholarship recipients must undergo federal background checks</li> <li>Teachers must have a bachelor’s degree, three years of teaching experience, or special expertise</li> <li>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</li> <li>Any school receiving more than \$250,000 in scholarship money must provide financial reporting to the state</li> <li>Scholarship students must take a nationally recognized norm-referenced test or the state public school assessment. All schools with at least 30 students in grades 3–10 must post standardized test score gains</li> </ul>	<p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$286,250,000 (2013–14)</li> <li>Cap is allowed to increase by 25 percent in any year after 90 percent of the cap is reached</li> </ul>
	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2001</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	59,674
Schools Participating	1,414
STOs Operating	1
2013 Expenditures	\$286,250,000



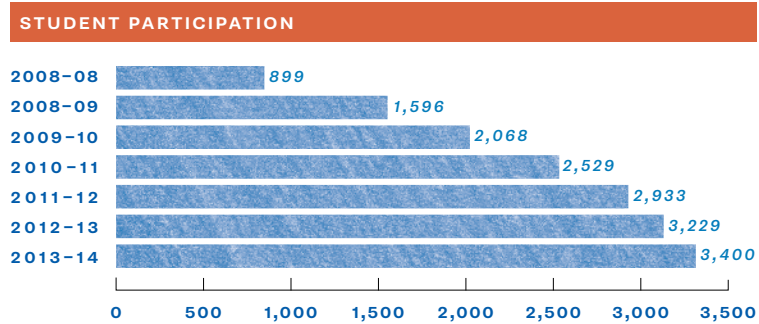


# Georgia

## GEORGIA SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Amount of public school funding student would have received</li> <li>– Tuition and fees of private school</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended public school the previous year</li> <li>• Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the entire school year prior to receiving a scholarship</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify state regarding intention to participate</li> <li>• Demonstrate financial viability</li> <li>• Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. s 2000d</li> <li>• Comply with state health and safety requirements</li> <li>• Be accredited or in the process of becoming accredited</li> <li>• Teachers must have bachelor's degree or three years' experience in education or health</li> <li>• Provide parents with teachers' credentials</li> <li>• Report to parents and state regarding students' academic progress</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	3,400
Schools Participating	243
2013 Expenditures	\$13,649,039



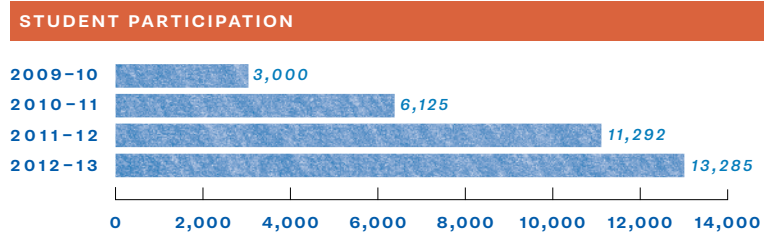




Program Expanded Program Improved

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be accredited or in the process of becoming accredited</li> <li>Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964</li> <li>Comply with all state private school regulations, including health and safety codes</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attended public school the previous year or entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of state and local per-pupil funding</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SSO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Have an independent board of directors</li> <li>Ensure donors cannot designate their donation to any particular individual student</li> <li>Submit annually to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on accepted contributions and tax credits approved</li> <li>Independent review of financial statements by certified public accountant</li> <li>Total number of students and total dollar value of scholarships awarded each year</li> </ul> </li> <li>Publicly disclose annually:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of scholarships approved</li> <li>Total number and amount of donations received</li> <li>Average household income of scholarship recipients</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,000 single</li> <li>\$2,500 married couple</li> <li>75 percent of corporation's state income tax liability</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$58 million in 2013</li> <li>Increases by the annual growth of the Consumer Price Index</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2008</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	13,285
Schools Participating	NOT AVAILABLE
STOs Operating	33
2012 Donations	\$48,118,266



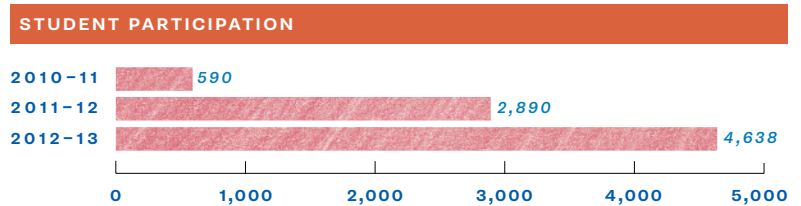


# Indiana

## CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be accredited by a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board</li> <li>Administer a nationally recognized and norm-referenced assessment to the students</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 200 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$87,136 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Must have been enrolled in public school the prior year or be entering kindergarten or received a scholarship in the previous school year</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition and fees</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Certified by the state</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Conduct criminal background checks on all SGO employees and board members</li> <li>Have an outside financial audit conducted and provide an annual report to the state</li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$7.5 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2009</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	4,638
Schools Participating	NOT AVAILABLE
SGOs Operating	5
2012 Donations	\$6,408,908





# Indiana

## CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Program Expanded Program Improved

### PROGRAM TYPE

- Voucher
  - Means-tested

### STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Family income cannot exceed 100 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013) for a full scholarship
- Family income cannot exceed 150 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$65,352 for a family of four) for a partial scholarship
- Attended public school for two semesters immediately prior to enrolling in the Choice Scholarship Program or received a scholarship under the Corporate and Individual Scholarship Tax Credit Program.
- Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and have a family income that cannot exceed 200 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$87,136 for a family of four in 2013)
- Attended or zoned to attend a public school rated “F” and have a family income that cannot exceed 150 of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$65,352 for a family of four)
- Are siblings of a student who received either a Choice Scholarship or an SGO scholarship in a preceding school year and have a family income that cannot exceed 150 of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$65,352 for a family of four)
- Received a voucher the previous year and have a family income of 200 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$87,136 for a family of four)

### SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

- Be accredited by either the state board or a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board
- Comply with health and safety codes
- Must not discriminate on basis of race, color, or national origin
- Conduct criminal background checks on employees
- Submit to the state financial reporting on the amount of government funding received, funding disbursed, and school’s total disbursements
- Administer the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP) program and report to the state data for A–F ratings including ISTEP scores and graduation rates
  - To remain eligible to accept new scholarship students, a school must not be rated as D or F for two or more consecutive years
- Must grant the state full access to its premises for observing classroom instruction and reviewing any instructional materials and curriculum
- Provide civic and character education and display related historical documents

### SCHOLARSHIP CAP

- Whichever is less:
  - Tuition and fees of private school
  - 90 percent of the state tuition support amount for students with a family income not exceeding 100 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program or 50 percent of the state tuition support amount for students with a family income not exceeding 150 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program
  - \$4,700 for students in grades 1–8

### ENROLLMENT CAP

- None

### PROGRAM FUNDING

- No specific program appropriation

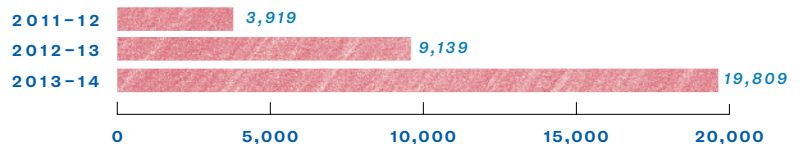
### YEAR ENACTED

- 2011

### DATA UPDATE

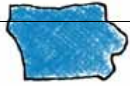
Scholarships Awarded	19,809
Schools Participating	313
2013 Expenditures	\$81,066,786

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION





*Students in Florida's educational choice program wait in line.*



Iowa

**INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION TAX CREDIT**

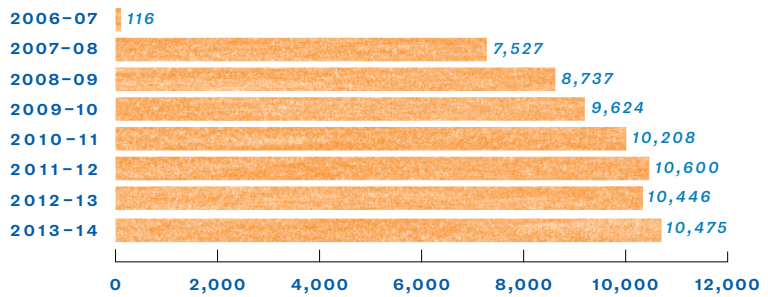
Program Expanded

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be accredited</li> <li>Comply with federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Iowa Chapter 216</li> <li>Comply with state health and safety codes</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$70,650 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition only</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Annual review of financial statements by public accounting firm</li> <li>Submit data to the state on accepted contributions, grants awarded, and participating schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$8.75 million for 2013             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 25 percent for corporations</li> <li>– 75 percent for individuals and married couples</li> </ul> </li> <li>\$12 million starting in 2014</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2006</li> </ul>

**DATA UPDATE**

Scholarships Awarded	10,475
Schools Participating	141
STOs Operating	12
2013 Donations	\$13,461,507

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION**



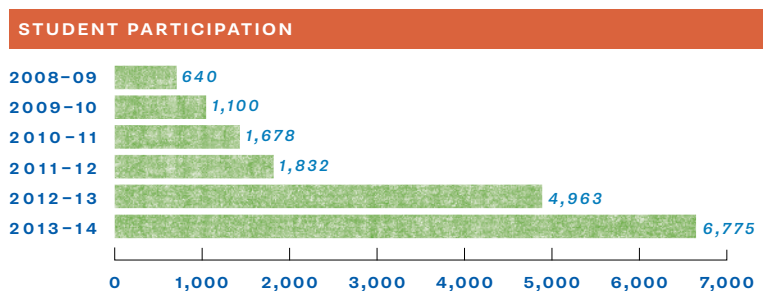


# Louisiana

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested and failing schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– State and local per-pupil funding (state average \$8,500 for 2012–13)</li> <li>– Tuition, fees, and costs associated with testing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$58,875 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>• Attended a public school rated C, D, or F or entering kindergarten</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25 million</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private schools must be approved by the state to participate</li> <li>• Comply with health and safety codes</li> <li>• Not discriminate on basis of race, color, or national origin</li> <li>• Use an open admissions process in enrolling scholarship recipients</li> <li>• Administer all Louisiana state examinations required under the school and district accountability system</li> <li>• Receive a Scholarship Cohort Index of at least 50 to remain eligible to accept new students</li> <li>• No more than 20 percent of students receiving scholarships for private schools in operation fewer than two years</li> <li>• Submit to the state an annual independent financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant</li> <li>• Conduct criminal background checks on all school employees</li> <li>• Maintain a curriculum of quality at least equal to that prescribed for public schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	6,775
Schools Participating	126
2013 Expenditures	\$24,536,161





# Louisiana

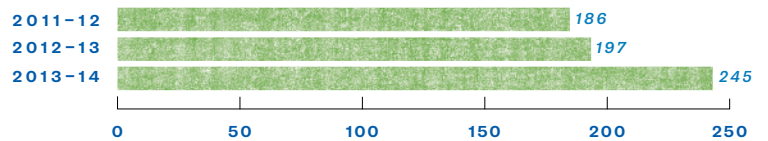
## SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE DATA UPDATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 50 percent of state per-pupil funding</li> <li>– Tuition of private school</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)</li> <li>• Be in need of services for autism, mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health-impairment specific learning disability, or traumatic brain injury</li> <li>• Eligible to attend a public school</li> <li>• Reside in one of the six large parishes: Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Caddo, St. Tammany, or Lafayette</li> <li>• Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$650,000</li> </ul> <p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be approved by the state to participate</li> <li>• Comply with state nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements</li> <li>• Have existed and provided educational services to students with special needs for two years prior to participating in the program</li> <li>• Teachers must be certified to teach special education</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010</li> </ul>

### DATA UPDATE

Scholarships Awarded	245
Schools Participating	17
2013 Expenditures	\$534,898

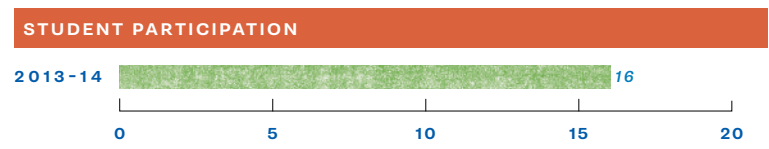
### STUDENT PARTICIPATION





<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education</li> <li>Not discriminate on basis of race, color, or national origin</li> <li>Conduct background checks on its employees</li> <li>Annually administer and report the results of the state test associated with the school and district accountability system to measure learning gains in math and language arts to all participating students in grades that require testing under the state’s accountability testing requirements for public schools</li> <li>Any school receiving more than \$50,000 in scholarship money must:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File financial information demonstrating its financial viability</li> <li>File a surety bond if in operation for five years or less</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$58,875 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Attended public school the previous year or entering kindergarten</li> <li>Priority given to students who are from public schools that received a letter grade F or D, received a scholarship in the previous year, or are siblings of participating students</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition and fees</li> <li>Grades K–8 (80 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,048)</li> <li>Grades 9–12 (90 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,552)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 95 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Conduct background checks on its employees and board members</li> <li>Report annually to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number and dollar amount of contributions received</li> <li>Total number and dollar amount of scholarships awarded</li> <li>Total amount expended on administrative costs</li> <li>Tuition and fee amounts published by participating schools</li> <li>Information on contributions made by each contributor</li> <li>Financial information report by a certified public accountant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>TAX REBATE VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95 percent of donation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>DONOR REBATE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2012</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	16
Schools Participating	5
STOs Operating	1
2013 Expenditures	UNKNOWN







*School choice programs nationwide serve students in need of quality educational options.*

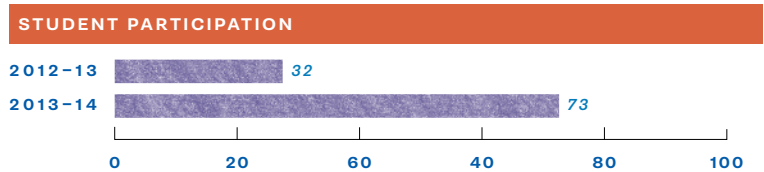


# Mississippi

## DYSLEXIA THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 percent of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program base student cost (state portion of per-pupil funding)</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosed with dyslexia</li> <li>• Entering grades 1–6</li> <li>• Previously attended a public or private school that emphasizes instruction in dyslexia intervention or whose parent has obtained acceptance for admission of the student to an eligible private school</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a state accredited special purpose school</li> <li>• Provide comprehensive dyslexia therapy instruction delivered by state Department of Education-licensed dyslexia therapists to children diagnosed with dyslexia as a primary learning disability</li> <li>• Provide the state all documentation required for a student’s participation</li> <li>• Provide parents with a written explanation of the student’s progress</li> <li>• Conduct background checks on teachers and other school personnel</li> <li>• Submit to annual audits of financial records by the state auditor</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2012</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	73
Schools Participating	3
2013 Expenditures	\$330,681





# Mississippi

## MISSISSIPPI SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH SPEECH-LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS PROGRAM

New Program

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 percent of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program base student cost (state portion of per-pupil funding)</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entering grades K–6</li> <li>• Evaluated and diagnosed with a speech-language impairment</li> <li>• Previously attended a public school or state accredited special-purpose school that emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be approved as a state accredited nonpublic special purpose school that is organized to provide, and emphasizes instruction in, speech-language therapy and intervention as the primary purpose of the school</li> <li>• Provide comprehensive speech-language therapy instruction delivered by speech-language pathologists licensed by the State Department of Education and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association</li> <li>• Annually provide the parents of scholarship students a written explanation of the student’s progress</li> <li>• Conduct criminal background checks on employees</li> <li>• Allow for an annual audit of its financial records by the State Auditor and file a copy of the audit report and accompanying management letter with the State Board of Education</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013</li> </ul>

### PROGRAM UPDATE

Because this program was enacted in 2013, there has not yet been official reporting on the number of scholarships granted or expenditures at this time.





<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with state home education law</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$70,650 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Private school and homeschool students are also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,500 (average of all of SO scholarships)</li> <li>At least \$4,375 for students receiving special education programs or services</li> <li>Scholarship for homeschooled students is limited to 25 percent of \$2,500 (program’s average scholarship)</li> <li>The scholarship cap will increase by the annual growth of the Consumer Price Index, beginning in the second year of the program</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Comply with state and federal anti-discrimination and privacy laws</li> <li>Be registered with the director of charitable trusts</li> <li>Be approved by the state</li> <li>In awarding scholarships to students who attended public school or who received a scholarship the previous year, award at least 40 percent of scholarships to students who qualified for free and reduced-price lunch in the final year they were in public school</li> <li>Must not restrict scholarships for use at a single school and not reserve scholarships for specific students</li> <li>Submit to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number and dollar amount of scholarships awarded and the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch for each of the student eligibility categories</li> <li>Total dollar amount of donations spent on administrative expenses</li> <li>Total carryover dollar amount</li> <li>Total dollar amount of contributions used and not used for scholarships</li> <li>Number of scholarships distributed, per school, and the dollar range of those scholarships</li> <li>Analysis, by ZIP code, of the place of residence for each student receiving a scholarship</li> <li>Aggregated results of parental satisfaction survey, designed by the state</li> <li>Number of students who graduated and the number who dropped out of school</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85 percent of donation</li> </ul> <p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than 10 percent of the aggregate amount of tax credits permitted in a given year</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First year: \$3.4 million</li> <li>Second year: \$5.1 million</li> <li>After second year, cap is allowed to increase by 25 percent in any year after 80 percent of the cap is reached</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2012</li> </ul>

### DATA UPDATE

Scholarships Awarded (Total)	103
<i>Enrolled in Private Schools</i>	47
<i>Homeschooled</i>	56
School Participating	15
SOs Operating	1
2013 Expenditures (Total)	\$128,340
<i>Private School Scholarship Expenditures</i>	\$116,290
<i>Homeschooler Expenditures</i>	\$12,050

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION





# North Carolina

## OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

New Program

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$4,200</li> <li>– Tuition and fees</li> <li>– 90 percent of tuition and fees for students with a family income exceeding free or reduced-price lunch program (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended public school the previous year or entering kindergarten or first grade</li> <li>• Is a child in foster care or was adopted not more than one year prior to applying for scholarship</li> <li>• Family income cannot exceed 133 percent of the amount required to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program (\$57,945 for family of four in 2013)</li> <li>• For the 2014–15 school year only, an eligible student must qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013)</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet state nondiscrimination policies</li> <li>• Comply with health and safety requirements</li> <li>• Be accredited by the State Board of Education, a national or regional accrediting agency, or an active member of the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools, or receive no funding from the State of North Carolina</li> <li>• Provide the state with documentation for tuition and fees charged</li> <li>• Conduct criminal background check on staff member with highest decision-making authority</li> <li>• Provide parents with an annual written explanation of the student’s progress, including scores on standardized achievement tests</li> <li>• Annually administer a nationally standardized test to scholarship students and provide the test results to the state</li> <li>• Provide graduation rates of scholarship students to the state</li> <li>• Contract with a certified public accountant to perform a financial review for schools accepting students receiving more than \$300,000 in scholarship grants</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013</li> </ul>

**DATA UPDATE**

Because this program was enacted in 2013 it has not yet granted scholarships at this time. Furthermore, in response to litigation filed by opponents of educational choice, a North Carolina court has issued an injunction barring the program from moving forward. Appeals to that decision have been filed.



# North Carolina

## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

New Program

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet state nondiscrimination policies</li> <li>• Comply with health and safety requirements</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and receive special education or related services on a daily basis</li> <li>• Attended a North Carolina public school during the previous semester, received special education services as a preschooler during the previous semester, received a voucher under this program during the previous semester, or be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten or first grade</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,000</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 million</li> </ul>
	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013</li> </ul>

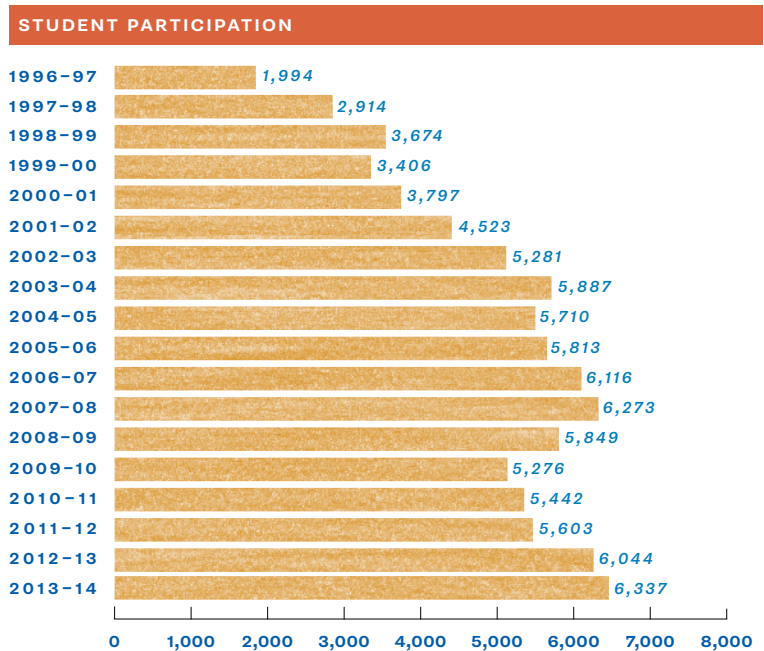
### PROGRAM UPDATE

Because this program was enacted in 2013, it has not yet granted scholarships at this time.



<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-preferenced</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be registered to participate and chartered by the state</li> <li>• Meet state standards for chartered nonpublic schools</li> <li>• Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes</li> <li>• Administer the state tests, including the Ohio Graduation Test</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must live in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District</li> <li>• Priority given to students living below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$47,100 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>• Scholarship may continue throughout high school</li> <li>• Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition</li> <li>– \$4,250 (grades K–8)</li> <li>– \$5,700 (grades 9–12)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$29 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1995</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	6,337
Schools Participating	35
2013 Expenditures	\$28,794,190







# Ohio

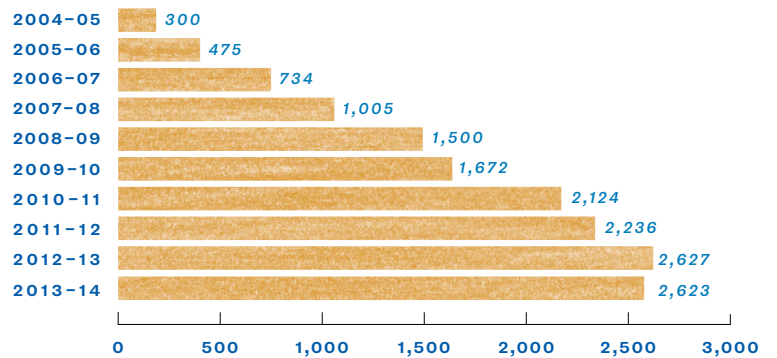
## AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition</li> <li>– \$20,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be identified as autistic through assigned school district</li> <li>• Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)</li> <li>• Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register with the state</li> <li>• Comply with state nondiscrimination codes</li> <li>• Demonstrate fiscal soundness</li> <li>• Have properly credentialed staff</li> <li>• Teachers and other staff working with children must undergo background checks</li> <li>• In operation at least one full year</li> <li>• Have adequate liability, property, and casualty insurance certified by a certified public accountant</li> <li>• Obtain surety bond or letter of credit to cover value of scholarships</li> <li>• Provide regular student progress reports to parents and resident public school</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2003</li> </ul>

### DATA UPDATE

Scholarships Awarded	2,623
Schools Participating	285
2013 Expenditures	\$46,970,000

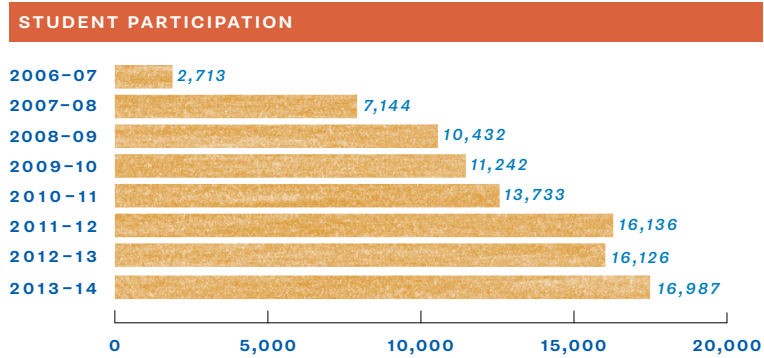
### STUDENT PARTICIPATION





<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Failing schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition</li> <li>– \$4,250 (grades K–8)</li> <li>– \$5,000 (grades 9–12)</li> <li>– Scholarship can cover full tuition for students living under 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$47,100 for a family of four in 2013)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 or assigned to a school ranked in the bottom 10 percent of schools on the basis of its Performance Index score</li> <li>• Students entering kindergarten in one of these schools also qualify</li> <li>• Priority given to returning and low-income applicants</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60,000</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be chartered by the state</li> <li>• Meet state standards for chartered nonpublic schools</li> <li>• Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes</li> <li>• Teachers and staff working with children must undergo background checks</li> <li>• Administer state tests; test results are publicized on the Ohio Department of Education website</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2005</li> </ul>

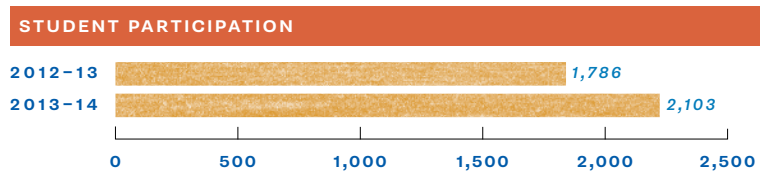
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	16,987
Schools Participating	447
2013 Expenditures	\$72,599,898





<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition and fees of the private school</li> <li>– Student’s per-pupil special education funding amount based on disability, with a cap of \$20,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a child with a disability by the school district</li> <li>• Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)</li> <li>• Not receiving a scholarship under the Educational Choice Scholarship Program, the Autism Scholarship Program, or the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program for the same school year in which they are seeking the special needs scholarship</li> <li>• In compliance with the state compulsory attendance law</li> <li>• Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than five percent of Ohio students identified as children with disabilities during the previous fiscal year (approximately 12,000 scholarships)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered by the state</li> <li>• Comply with state nondiscrimination laws</li> <li>• Meet health and safety standards</li> <li>• Submit in writing to the parents of the qualified special education child a profile of the provider’s special education program, including: methods of instruction that will be utilized to provide services to the child and the qualifications of teachers, instructors, and other persons who will provide services to the child</li> <li>• Administer and report the results of the state’s tests, including the Ohio Graduation Test, unless the student is excused from taking that assessment under federal law or the student’s IEP</li> <li>• Have properly credentialed staff</li> <li>• Educational program approved by the state</li> <li>• Provide record of the implementation of the IEP of each qualified special education student enrolled in the school, including evaluation of the child’s progress to the school district</li> <li>• Submit to the state information on the type and cost of special education services given to scholarship recipients</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	2,103
Schools Participating	286
2013 Expenditures	\$26,110,226

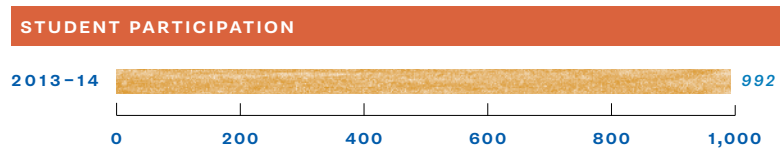




New Program

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition and fees of the private school</li> <li>– \$4,250 (grades K–8)</li> <li>– \$5,000 (grades 9–12)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If the student’s family income is above 200 percent (\$47,100) but at or below 300 percent (\$70,650) of the federal poverty guidelines, the student will receive a scholarship in the amount of 75 percent of the full scholarship amount</li> <li>• If the student’s family income is above 300 percent (\$70,650) but at or below 400 percent ((\$94,200) of the federal poverty guidelines, the student shall receive a scholarship in the amount of 50 percent of the full scholarship amount</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$47,100 for family of four in 2013) for full scholarship; priority given to students from families at or below the federal poverty guideline (\$23,550 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>• Family income below 400 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$94,200 for a family of four in 2013) for a partial scholarship</li> <li>• Not eligible for Educational Choice Scholarship Program</li> <li>• For the 2013–2014 school year, only students who are entering kindergarten are eligible; for each subsequent school year, scholarships shall be awarded to students in the next grade level above the highest grade level awarded in the preceding school year, in addition to the grade levels for which students received scholarships in the preceding school year</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 scholarships for the 2013–14 school year</li> <li>• 2,000 additional scholarships per new grade for each succeeding year</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be chartered by the state</li> <li>• Meet state standards for chartered nonpublic schools</li> <li>• Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes</li> <li>• Teachers and staff with children must undergo background checks</li> <li>• Administer state tests; test results are published on the Ohio Department of Education website</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8.5 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	992
Schools Participating	447
2013 Expenditures	\$8,500,000





*Coreana (standing, second row, second from left) uses a voucher to attend private school, where she hopes to be the third valedictorian in her family—a reality that would not be possible without educational choice.*

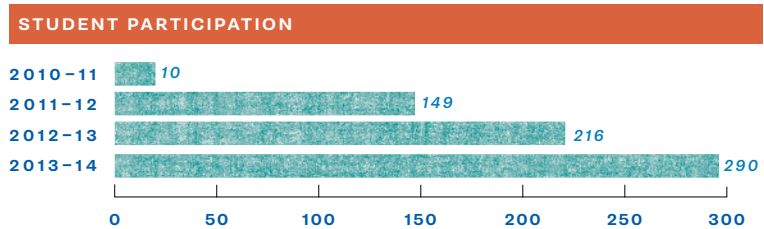


# Oklahoma

## LINDSEY NICOLE HENRY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 100 percent of the state and local public school funding for each child (takes into account grade and disability)</li> <li>– Tuition and fees of the private school</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The local school district may keep up to five percent of the scholarship amount for administrative services</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in effect at the time the scholarship is requested</li> <li>• Attended public school the previous school year</li> <li>• Children of U.S. military personnel transferring are exempt from prior year public school attendance requirement</li> <li>• Have regular and direct contact with private school teachers at the physical location of the private school</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be accredited by the State Board of Education or approved accrediting association</li> <li>• Comply with state nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements</li> <li>• Must have been in operation for one school year prior to participation in the program</li> <li>• Provide a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that the private school is insured and the owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate or provide record of a surety bond or credit for the amount equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter</li> <li>• Teachers must have a bachelor's degree or at least three years of teaching experience in public or private schools, or have special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to provide instruction in the subjects taught</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific program appropriation</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	290
Schools Participating	48
2013 Expenditures	\$1,312,773



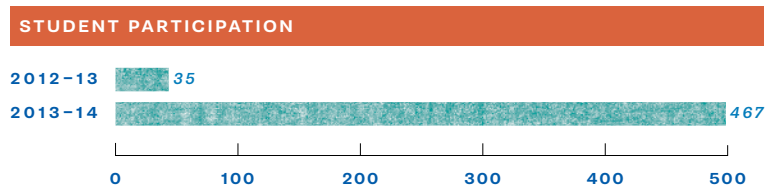


# Oklahoma

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accredited by the state or a state-approved accrediting association</li> <li>Comply with health and safety laws and codes</li> <li>Has stated policy against discrimination</li> <li>Ensures academic accountability through regular progress reports to parents</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$130,704 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Attended or was eligible to attend a public school identified for school improvement pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 during the preceding school year</li> <li>Participating students and their siblings remain eligible until graduation</li> <li>For the special needs portion of the scholarship, eligible students must have attended a public school and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whichever is greater:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5,000</li> <li>80 percent of average per-pupil expenditure in the student's school district</li> <li>Up to \$25,000 to cover the tuition, fees, and transportation costs at selected private school for special needs students</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 percent</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Register as a scholarship-granting organization with the state</li> <li>Spend portion of expenditures on scholarships for students who qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$43,568 for family of four in 2013) in an amount equal or greater to the percentage of eligible low-income students in the state</li> <li>Ensure scholarships are portable during the school year and can be used at any qualified school that accepts the eligible student</li> <li>Conduct background checks on employees and board members</li> <li>Maintain full and accurate records on contributions and expenditures and other documentation required by the state</li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,000 individuals</li> <li>\$2,000 married couples</li> <li>\$100,000 corporations</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.5 million             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.75 million individuals and married couples</li> <li>\$1.75 million corporations</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2011</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	467*
Schools Participating	33*
STOs Operating	2*
2013 Expenditures	\$401,068*



\*Alliance Estimate

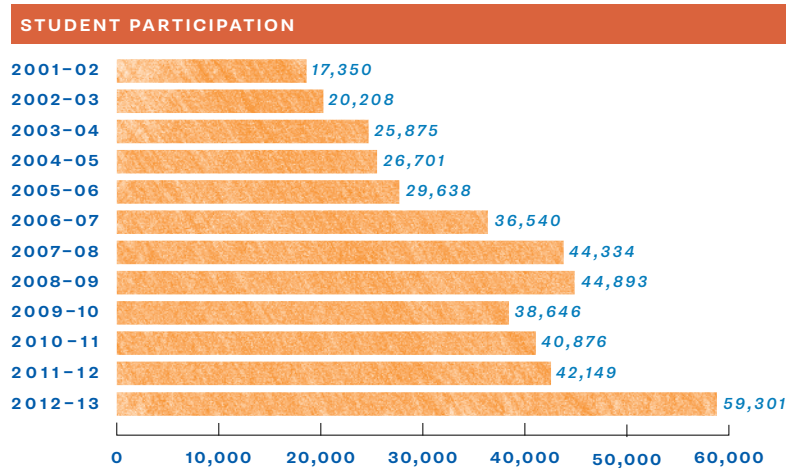


# Pennsylvania

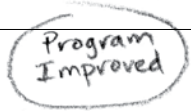
## EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT

<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964</li> <li>Meet state health and safety codes</li> <li>Teachers and other employees working with children must undergo background checks</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed \$75,000, with an additional \$12,000 allowed for each additional dependent.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Income adjusted annually to reflect growth of the Consumer Price Index</li> </ul> </li> <li>Private school students also eligible</li> <li>For special needs students, family income cannot exceed \$60,000 (\$75,000 after June 30, 2013), with an additional \$12,000 per dependent multiplied by 1.5 for students not enrolled in special education schools (Support Level 1) or 2.9993 for students enrolled in special education schools (Support Level 2)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition and fees</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 percent of one-year donation</li> <li>90 percent of two-year donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 80 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Submit annual report detailing donations received and scholarships awarded and proof of a financial review by a certified public accountant</li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$750,000 beginning in FY 2013–14</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$60 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2001</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	59,301
Schools Participating	NOT AVAILABLE
STOs Operating	266
2012 Donations	\$65,750,000

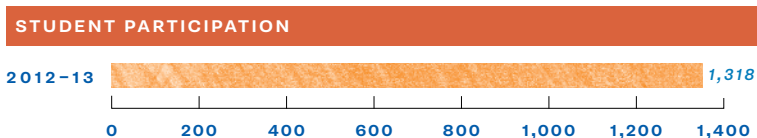


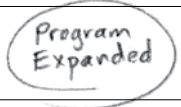




<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failing schools, means-tested, and means-preferenced</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964</li> <li>Meet state health and safety codes</li> <li>Teachers and other employees working with children must undergo background checks</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children residing within the attendance boundary of a low-achieving school (bottom 15 percent based on combined reading and math scores on the state assessment)</li> <li>Preference given to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who received a scholarship during the previous year</li> <li>Students from households with a family income that does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Family income cannot exceed \$75,000, with an additional \$12,000 allowed for each additional dependent             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income adjusted annually to reflect growth of the Consumer Price Index</li> </ul> </li> <li>Private school students also eligible</li> <li>For special needs students, family income cannot exceed \$60,000 (\$75,000 after June 30, 2013), with an additional \$12,000 per dependent multiplied by 1.5 for students not enrolled in special education schools (Support Level 1) or 2.9993 for students enrolled in special education schools (Support Level 2)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$8,500 (for non-special education students)</li> <li>\$15,000 (for special education students)</li> <li>Tuition and fees</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 percent of one-year donation</li> <li>90 percent of two-year donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 80 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Submit annual report detailing donations received and scholarships awarded to the state, including number of scholarships awarded and total and average amounts of scholarships awarded to students from households with a family income that does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline</li> <li>Submit a copy of a financial audit conducted by a certified accounting firm</li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$750,000 beginning in FY 2013–14</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$50 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2012</li> </ul>

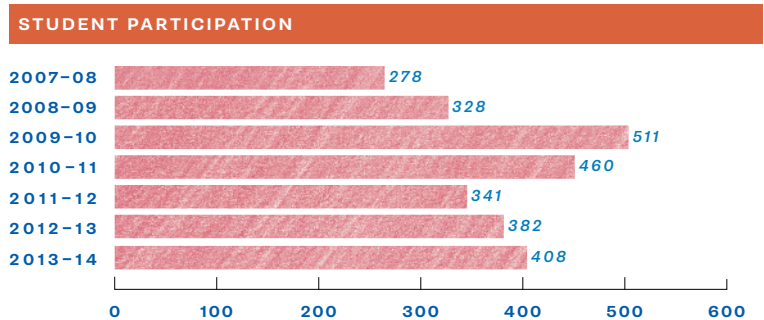
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	1,318
Schools Participating	NOT AVAILABLE
STOs Operating	154
2012 Donations	\$19,000,000





<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with federal and state nondiscrimination laws</li> <li>Meet state health and safety codes</li> <li>Require teachers to have bachelor's degrees</li> <li>Conduct teacher background checks</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$58,875 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Other criteria determined by Scholarship Granting Organization</li> <li>Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 percent of one-year donation</li> <li>90 percent of two-year donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Provide annual report to the state detailing number and value of scholarships awarded, ZIP codes of recipients, and criteria used to award scholarships</li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$100,000</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1 million</li> <li>\$1.5 million (starting in FY 2014)</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2006</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	408
Schools Participating	54
SGOs Operating	5
2013 Donations	\$1,658,388

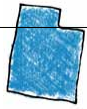




<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not discriminate based on the grounds of race, color, religion, or national origin</li> <li>• Comply with health and safety codes</li> <li>• Have a curriculum that includes courses set forth in the state’s diploma requirements</li> <li>• Administers national achievement or state standardized tests</li> <li>• Be a member in good standing of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, or the South Carolina Independent Schools Association</li> <li>• Have a compliance audit conducted by an outside entity or auditing firm</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be designated by the South Carolina Department of Education as meeting the federal definition of a “child with a disability” (34 CFR 300.8)</li> <li>• Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION (SFO) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use at least 95 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>• Allocate all scholarships to exceptional needs students</li> <li>• Serve more than one school</li> <li>• Conduct financial audit performed by a certified public accountant</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tuition and fees</li> <li>– \$10,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 percent of donation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 percent of tax liability</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8 million</li> </ul>
<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013</li> </ul>	

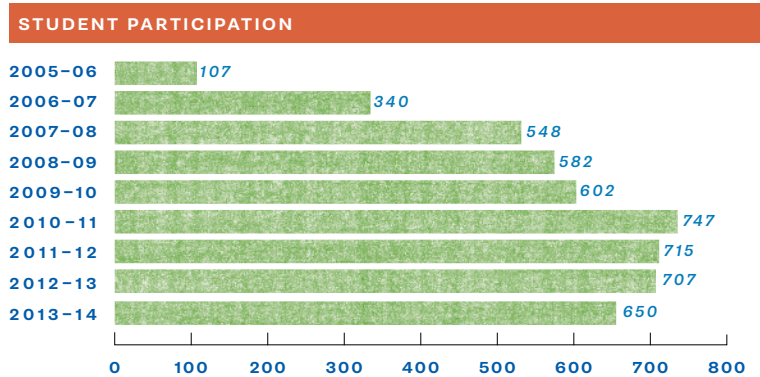
**PROGRAM UPDATE**

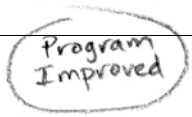
Because this program was enacted in 2013, there has not yet been official reporting on the donations SGOs have received or scholarships granted at this time.



<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on state's public school funding formula             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$7,105 (three or more hours of services)</li> <li>– \$4,263 (less than three hours of services)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as disabled and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)</li> <li>• Currently attending an eligible private school and be determined in need of specialized services</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.75 million</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be approved by the state</li> <li>• Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. 2000d</li> <li>• Comply with state health and safety codes</li> <li>• Submit to the state an audit and financial report completed by a certified public accountant</li> <li>• Possess adequate working capital to maintain operations for the first year</li> <li>• Disclose to parents the special education services to be provided and the cost of those services</li> <li>• Administer annual assessment of student's academic progress and report results to the student's parents</li> <li>• Teachers of recipients must have bachelor's degrees, three years of teaching experience, or special skills</li> <li>• Provide parents with teacher's credentials</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2005</li> </ul>

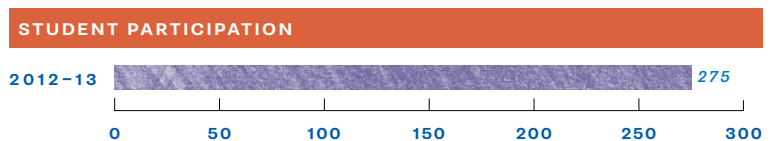
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	650
Schools Participating	45
2013 Expenditures	\$3,892,000





<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with state and local health and safety laws</li> <li>Hold a valid occupancy permit</li> <li>Comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964</li> <li>Comply with nonpublic school accreditation requirements as set forth in Section 22.1-19, Code of Virginia, and administered by the Virginia Council for Private Education or nonpublic schools that maintain an assessment system that annually measures scholarship students' progress in reading and math using a national norm-referenced achievement test</li> <li>Annually provide the state with scholarship students' national norm-referenced achievement test results</li> <li>Annually provide the state with scholarship students' graduation rates</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$70,650 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>Attended public school the previous year or entering kindergarten or first grade</li> <li>Eligible students with a disability must satisfy the above requirement; they must also have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and their family income cannot exceed 400 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$94,200 for a family of four in 2013)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whichever is less:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition and instructional fees and materials</li> <li>100 percent of state per-pupil funding</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>TAX CREDIT VALUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65 percent of donation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION (SF) REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be approved by the state</li> <li>Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships</li> <li>Make scholarships available for more than one school</li> <li>Comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964</li> <li>Conduct an annual audit, review, or compilation on tax-credit-derived funds</li> <li>Submit to the state:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number and dollar amount of contributions received</li> <li>Dates when such contributions were received</li> <li>Total number and dollar amount of scholarships awarded</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of state tax liability, no less than \$500</li> </ul> </li> <li>Individual and couple             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 percent of state tax liability, no less than \$500 and no more than \$50,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2012</li> </ul>

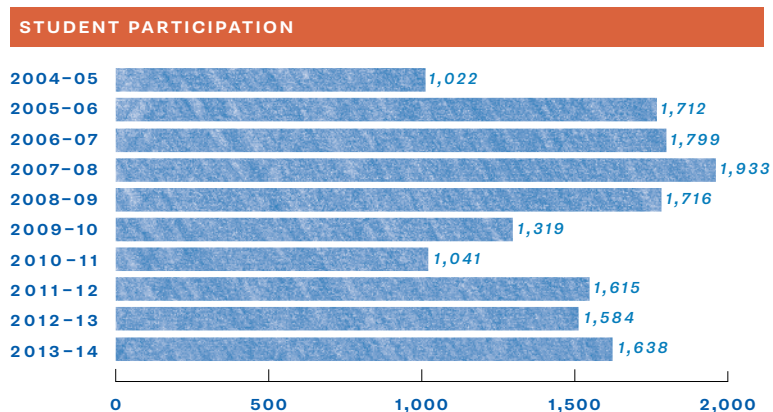
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	275
Schools Participating	30
SFs Operating	7
2013 Donations	\$1,232,701





<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8,256 (grades K–8)</li> <li>• \$12,385 (grades 9–12)</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013) or participated in the program in the preceding year and has a family income of up to 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$70,650 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>• Priority given to students who attend schools deemed in need of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under the federal No Child Left Behind Act; were awarded a scholarship in the preceding year; or have a sibling participating in the program</li> <li>• Students from low-income families in other public schools are also eligible</li> <li>• Students currently attending private school are also eligible</li> <li>• Must take national norm-referenced standardized test</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20 million authorized</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not discriminate</li> <li>• Comply with district health and safety codes</li> <li>• Maintain a valid certificate of occupancy</li> <li>• Teachers in core subjects must have a bachelor's degree</li> <li>• Must be accredited and comply with other standards prescribed under the District of Columbia compulsory school attendance laws</li> <li>• Must allow site visits by the administering program entity</li> <li>• Administer a nationally norm-referenced standardized test; a comparative evaluation will be conducted utilizing D.C. Public Schools, charter schools, and OSP school testing data</li> <li>• Submit proof of financial sustainability for schools in operation for five years or less</li> <li>• Has financial systems in place to ensure that funds are used appropriately</li> </ul>	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2004</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	1,638
Schools Participating	52
2013 Expenditures	\$13,799,620

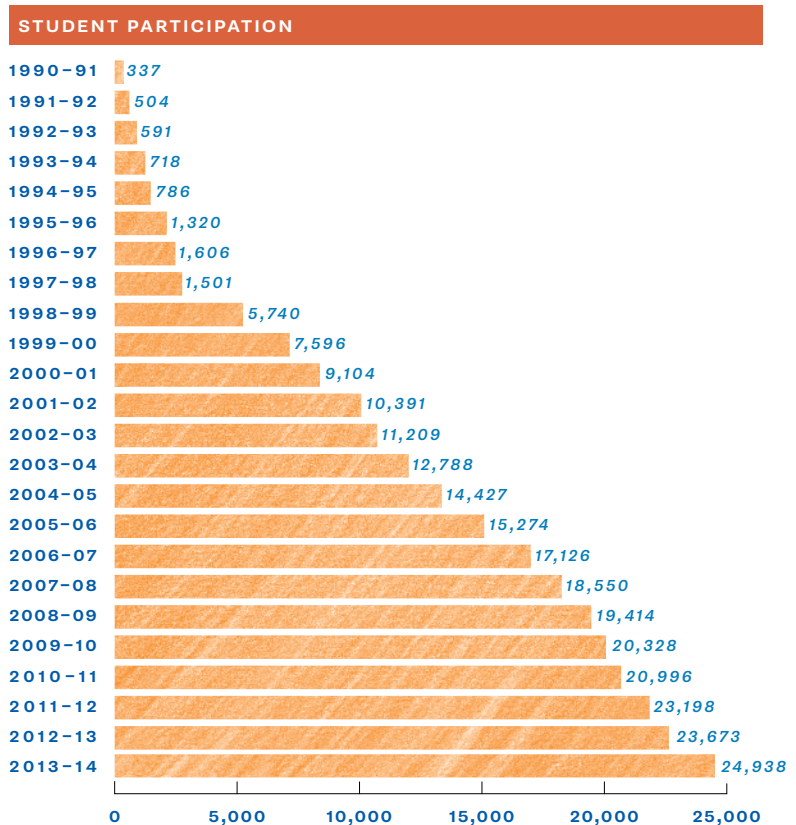






<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher</li> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,442 (2013–14)</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live in the Milwaukee Public School District</li> <li>• Family income below 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$70,650 for a family of four in 2013), with an additional \$7,000 allowed for households with married parents</li> <li>• Private school students also eligible</li> </ul>	<p>After 2014–15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7,210 (for K–8)</li> <li>• \$7,856 (for 9–12)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet state nondiscrimination policies</li> <li>• Meet state health and safety codes</li> <li>• Allow students to opt out of religious programs</li> <li>• Administer state testing to scholarship recipients in grades 4, 8, and 10; receive accreditation within three years of participating in Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (current participating schools adding grades or creating a new school are exempt)</li> <li>• Submit an annual financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant to the state</li> <li>• Provide evidence of sound fiscal practices and financial viability to the state</li> <li>• School administrators must undergo financial training and have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>• Teachers must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and teacher aides must have received a high school diploma or been granted a GED or HSED</li> <li>• Must provide 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1–6 and 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7–12</li> <li>• Must provide the state with information about the academic program at the participating school and student test score data</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 160.65 million</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1990</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	24,938
Schools Participating	110
2013 Expenditures	\$160,653,817





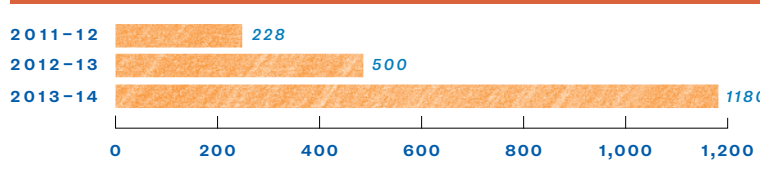


<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,442 (2013–14)</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live in Racine Unified School District</li> <li>• Family income below 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$70,650 for family of four in 2013), with an additional \$7,000 allowed for households with married parents</li> <li>• Enrolled in public school in the Racine Unified School District the previous school year; entering school for the first time; or applying to attend kindergarten, first grade, or ninth grade at a participating private school</li> <li>• Priority given to students who qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013) in the program’s first year</li> </ul>	<p>After 2014–15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7,210 (for K–8)</li> <li>• \$7,856 (for 9–12)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet state nondiscrimination policies</li> <li>• Meet health and safety codes</li> <li>• Allow students to opt out of religious programs</li> <li>• Administer state testing to scholarship recipients in grades 4, 8, and 10</li> <li>• Receive accreditation within three years of participating in the Racine Parental Choice Program</li> <li>• Submit an annual financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant to the state</li> <li>• Provide evidence of sound fiscal practices and financial viability to the state</li> <li>• School administrators must undergo financial training and have at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>• Teachers must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education, and teacher aides must have received a high school diploma or been granted a GED or HSED</li> <li>• Provide 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1–6 and 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7–12</li> <li>• Must provide the state with information about the academic program at the participating schools and student test score data</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7,605,425 (2013–14)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> </ul>

**DATA UPDATE**

Scholarships Awarded	1180
Schools Participating	13
2013 Expenditures	\$7,605,425

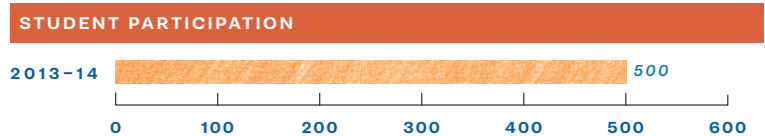
**STUDENT PARTICIPATION**



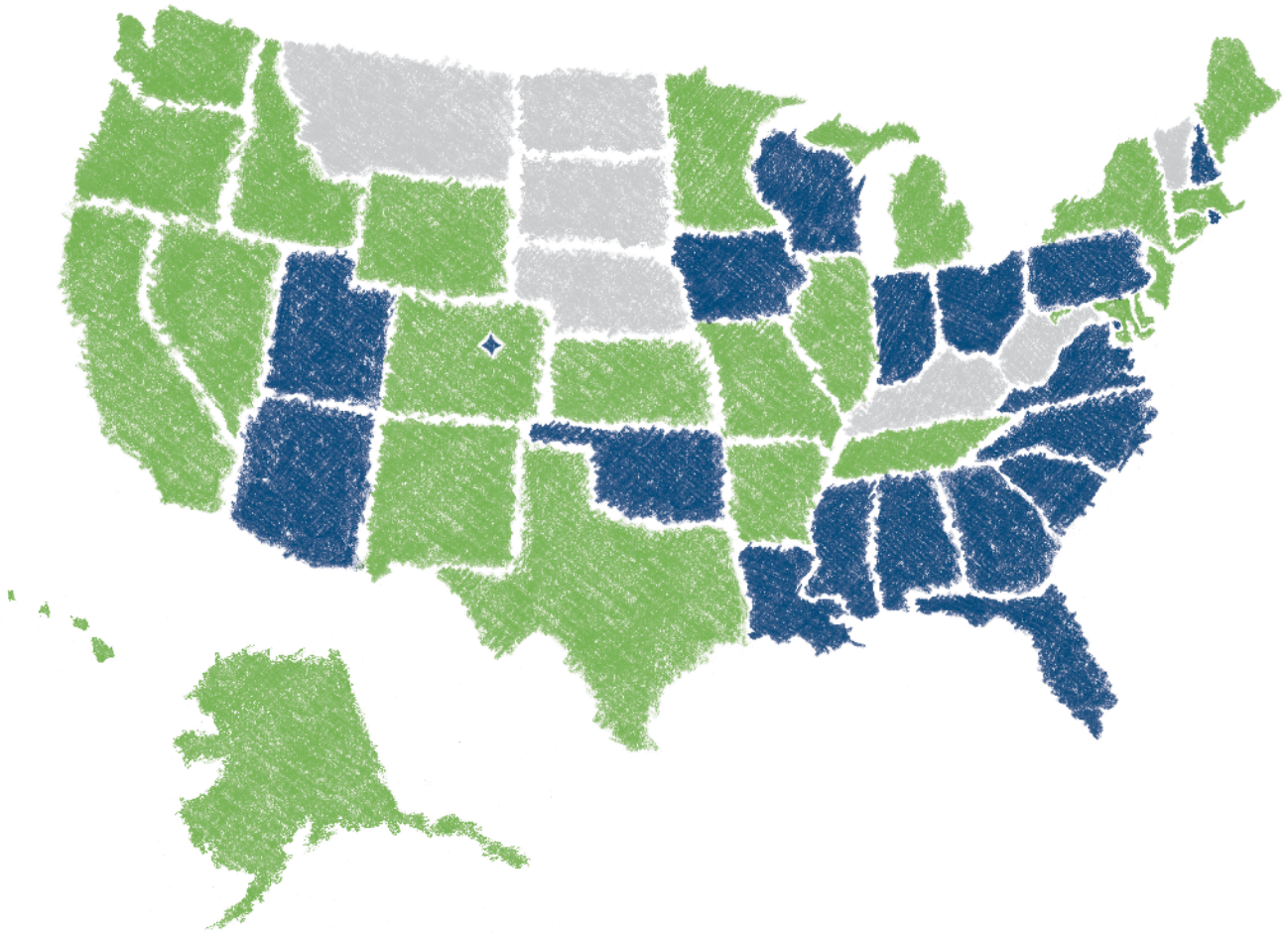


<p><b>PROGRAM TYPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voucher             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Means-tested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,442 (2013–14)</li> </ul> <p>After 2014–15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7,210 (for K–8)</li> <li>• \$7,856 (for 9–12)</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family income cannot exceed 100 percent of the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$43,568 for a family of four in 2013)</li> <li>• Reside outside of the Milwaukee Public School District and the Racine Unified School District</li> <li>• Enrolled in public school the previous school year; entering school for the first time; or applying to attend Kindergarten, first grade or ninth grade in a participating private school</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENROLLMENT CAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 scholarships for the 2013–14 school year</li> <li>• 1,000 for the 2013–14 school year and thereafter; each district’s enrollment will be capped at 1 percent of its public school district enrollment</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet state nondiscrimination policies</li> <li>• Allow students to opt out of religious programs</li> <li>• Administer state testing to scholarship recipients in grades 4, 8, and 10</li> <li>• Receive accreditation within three years of participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program</li> <li>• Annually submit to the state a financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant</li> <li>• Provide the state evidence of sound fiscal practices and financial viability</li> <li>• School administrators must undergo financial training and have a least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education</li> <li>• Teachers must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education, and teacher aides must have received a high school diploma or been granted a GED or HSED</li> <li>• Provide 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1–6 and 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7–12</li> <li>• Provide the Department of Public Instruction with information about the academic program at the participating school and student test score data</li> <li>• Meet all health and safety codes</li> <li>• Capped at the 25 schools with the most applicants if the number of applicants is higher than the enrollment cap</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3,221,000 in 2013–14</li> </ul> <p><b>YEAR ENACTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013</li> </ul>

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	500
Schools Participating	25
2013 Expenditures	\$3,221,000




STATES WITH SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS—PRIVATE AND CHARTER



 States with Private School Choice Programs

 States with No Charter School Programs

 States with Public Charter Schools, but no Private School Choice

\* Alabama has private school choice; a charter bill is currently being debated in the state legislature.

◆ Existing choice program is in just one county.

# Accountability Check

The Alliance for School Choice supports strong, commonsense accountability provisions for private school choice programs. Not only are transparency and accountability smart public policy, but they provide the educational choice movement and advocates with readily available data and information to improve programs and to describe successes.

**Academic Accountability:** results in transparency to parents, policymakers, taxpayers, and donors. Parents must have the information to choose high-quality schools that meet the needs of their children, while policymakers, taxpayers, and donors must measure the impact of private school choice programs on academic achievement and attainment.

**Administrative Accountability:** requires schools to meet health and safety codes, comply with nondiscrimination requirements, and conduct background checks on employees. In scholarship tax credit programs, Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) disclose donations and scholarship details, as well as conduct background checks of SGO operators.

**Financial Accountability:** requires schools to file annual financial reports and demonstrate financial viability. In scholarship tax credit programs, financial accountability requires SGOs to demonstrate sound financial standing.

## ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS IN VOUCHER PROGRAMS

		ADMINISTRATIVE			FINANCIAL		ACADEMIC		
		HEALTH AND SAFETY	NONDISCRIMINATION	BACKGROUND CHECKS	ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING	PROOF OF FINANCIAL VIABILITY	STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS	PUBLIC REPORTING OF RESULTS	INDEPENDENT EVALUATION
COLORADO	Douglas County Choice Scholarship Program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
FLORIDA	John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○
GEORGIA	Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	●	●	○	○	●	○	○	○
INDIANA	Choice Scholarship Program	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○
LOUISIANA	Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○
LOUISIANA	School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
MISSISSIPPI	Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○
MISSISSIPPI	Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○
NORTH CAROLINA	Opportunity Scholarship Program	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
NORTH CAROLINA	Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grants	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
OHIO	Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
OHIO	Autism Scholarship Program	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○
OHIO	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	○
OHIO	Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○
OHIO	Income-Based Scholarship Program	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	○
OKLAHOMA	Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	●	●	○	○	●	○	○	○
UTAH	Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	●	●	●	●	●	●*	○	○
WASHINGTON, D.C.	D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●
WISCONSIN	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●
WISCONSIN	Racine Parental Choice Program	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○
WISCONSIN	Wisconsin Parental Choice Program	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○

**ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS IN SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS**

		SGO ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL			SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL				ACADEMIC		
		BACKGROUND CHECKS	DONATION AND SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS REPORTING	ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING	HEALTH AND SAFETY	NONDISCRIMINATION	BACKGROUND CHECKS	PROOF OF FINANCIAL VIABILITY	STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS	PUBLIC REPORTING OF RESULTS	INDEPENDENT EVALUATION
ALABAMA	Tax Credits for Contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
ARIZONA	Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
ARIZONA	Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
ARIZONA	Lexie's Law	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
FLORIDA	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
GEORGIA	Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
INDIANA	Corporate and Individual Scholarship Tax Credit Program	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	○
IOWA	Individual and Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
LOUISIANA	Tuition Donation Rebate Program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
NEW HAMPSHIRE	New Hampshire Education Tax Credit	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
OKLAHOMA	Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
PENNSYLVANIA	Educational Improvement Tax Credit	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
PENNSYLVANIA	Educational Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit	○	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
RHODE ISLAND	Rhode Island Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit	○	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
SOUTH CAROLINA	Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children	○	○	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
VIRGINIA	Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	○

**ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS IN EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS**

		ADMINISTRATIVE			FINANCIAL		ACADEMIC		
		HEALTH AND SAFETY	NONDISCRIMINATION	BACKGROUND CHECKS	PROOF OF FINANCIAL VIABILITY	ANNUAL AUDITS (RANDOM SAMPLE)	STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS	PUBLIC REPORTING OF RESULTS	INDEPENDENT
ARIZONA	Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	○

# National Organizations Supporting Educational Choice

National organizations supporting educational choice are working across the country to expand educational options. Below are some of the organizations with whom the Alliance for School Choice has partnered.

Agudath Israel

[AGUDATHISRAEL.ORG](http://AGUDATHISRAEL.ORG)

Alliance for School Choice

[ALLIANCEFORSCHOOLCHOICE.ORG](http://ALLIANCEFORSCHOOLCHOICE.ORG)

American Center for School Choice

[AMCSC.ORG](http://AMCSC.ORG)

American Enterprise Institute

[AEI.ORG](http://AEI.ORG)

American Federation for Children

[FEDERATIONFORCHILDREN.ORG](http://FEDERATIONFORCHILDREN.ORG)

American Legislative Exchange Council

[ALEC.ORG](http://ALEC.ORG)

Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)

[BAEO.ORG](http://BAEO.ORG)

Brookings Institution

[BROOKINGS.EDU](http://BROOKINGS.EDU)

Council for American Private Education (CAPE)

[CAPENET.ORG](http://CAPENET.ORG)

Cato Institute

[CATO.ORG](http://CATO.ORG)

Center for Education Reform

[EDREFORM.COM](http://EDREFORM.COM)

Children's Scholarship Fund

[SCHOLARSHIPFUND.ORG](http://SCHOLARSHIPFUND.ORG)

Democrats for Education Reform (DFER)

[DFER.ORG](http://DFER.ORG)

Education Breakthrough Network

[EDBREAKTHROUGH.ORG](http://EDBREAKTHROUGH.ORG)

Education Next

[EDUCATIONNEXT.ORG](http://EDUCATIONNEXT.ORG)

Foundation for Excellence in Education

[EXCELINED.ORG](http://EXCELINED.ORG)

Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

[EDCHOICE.ORG](http://EDCHOICE.ORG)

Great Schools

[GREATSCHOOLS.ORG](http://GREATSCHOOLS.ORG)

Heartland Institute

[HEARTLAND.ORG](http://HEARTLAND.ORG)

Heritage Foundation

[HERITAGE.ORG](http://HERITAGE.ORG)

Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options (HCREO)

[HCREO.COM](http://HCREO.COM)

Institute for Justice

[IJ.ORG](http://IJ.ORG)

International Association for K–12 Online Learning

[INACOL.ORG](http://INACOL.ORG)

K12

[K12.COM](http://K12.COM)

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

[PUBLICCHARTERS.ORG](http://PUBLICCHARTERS.ORG)

National School Choice Week

[SCHOOLCHOICEWEEK.COM](http://SCHOOLCHOICEWEEK.COM)

Orthodox Union

[OU.ORG](http://OU.ORG)

Parents Union

[PARENTREVOLUTION.ORG](http://PARENTREVOLUTION.ORG)

reDefined

[REDEFINEDONLINE.ORG](http://REDEFINEDONLINE.ORG)

School Choice Demonstration Project

[UARK.EDU](http://UARK.EDU)

Stand for Children

[STAND.ORG](http://STAND.ORG)

State Policy Network

[SPN.ORG](http://SPN.ORG)

StudentsFirst

[STUDENTSFIRST.ORG](http://STUDENTSFIRST.ORG)

Thomas B. Fordham Institute

[EEXCELLENCE.NET](http://EEXCELLENCE.NET)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

[USCCB.ORG](http://USCCB.ORG)

# State Organizations Supporting Educational Choice

State and local organizations supporting educational choice are working across the country to allow families access to high-quality educational options. Below are some of the organizations with whom the Alliance for School Choice has partnered.

## Alabama

Alabama Opportunity  
Scholarship Fund  
[ALABAMASCHOLARSHIPFUND.ORG](http://ALABAMASCHOLARSHIPFUND.ORG)

Alabama Policy Institute  
[ALABAMAPOLICY.ORG](http://ALABAMAPOLICY.ORG)

## Arizona

Arizona School Choice Trust  
[ASCT.ORG](http://ASCT.ORG)

Arizona School Tuition  
Organization Association  
[ASTOA.COM](http://ASTOA.COM)

Goldwater Institute  
[GOLDWATERINSTITUTE.ORG](http://GOLDWATERINSTITUTE.ORG)

## Arkansas

Arkansans for Education Reform  
Foundation  
[EDUCATEARKANSAS.COM](http://EDUCATEARKANSAS.COM)

## Florida

Florida Federation for Children  
[FLORIDA4CHILDREN.ORG](http://FLORIDA4CHILDREN.ORG)

Step Up for Students  
[STEPUPFORSTUDENTS.ORG](http://STEPUPFORSTUDENTS.ORG)

## Georgia

Georgia Center for Opportunity  
[GEORGIAOPPORTUNITY.ORG](http://GEORGIAOPPORTUNITY.ORG)

Georgia Parent Advocacy Network  
[MYGPAN.ORG](http://MYGPAN.ORG)

Georgia Public Policy Foundation  
[GPPF.ORG](http://GPPF.ORG)

## Illinois

Educational Choice Illinois  
[CHOICE4KIDS.ORG](http://CHOICE4KIDS.ORG)

## Indiana

Indianapolis Urban League  
[INDPLSUL.ORG](http://INDPLSUL.ORG)

Institute of Quality Education  
[I4QED.ORG](http://I4QED.ORG)

## Iowa

Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education  
[IOWAACE.ORG](http://IOWAACE.ORG)

## Louisiana

Louisiana Federation for Children  
[LOUISIANA4CHILDREN.ORG](http://LOUISIANA4CHILDREN.ORG)

Black Alliance for Educational  
Options—Louisiana  
[LOUISIANA.BAEO.ORG](http://LOUISIANA.BAEO.ORG)

The Urban League of Greater New  
Orleans  
[URBANLEAGUENEWORLEANS.ORG](http://URBANLEAGUENEWORLEANS.ORG)

## Mississippi

Empower Mississippi  
[EMPOWERMS.ORG](http://EMPOWERMS.ORG)

## Mississippi Center for Public Policy

[MSPOLICY.ORG](http://MSPOLICY.ORG)

## Missouri

Children's Education Alliance  
of Missouri  
[CHILDRESEDUCATIONALLIANCE-MO.ORG](http://CHILDRESEDUCATIONALLIANCE-MO.ORG)

## New Hampshire

Network for Educational Opportunity  
[NETWORKFOREducation.ORG](http://NETWORKFOREducation.ORG)

Excellent Education for Everyone  
[NJES.ORG](http://NJES.ORG)

We Can Do Better NJ

[WECANDOBETTERNEWJERSEY.ORG](http://WECANDOBETTERNEWJERSEY.ORG)

## New Mexico

Educate New Mexico  
[EDUCATENM.ORG](http://EDUCATENM.ORG)

## North Carolina

Parents for Educational Freedom in  
North Carolina  
[PEFNC.ORG](http://PEFNC.ORG)

## Oklahoma

Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs  
[OCPATHINK.ORG](http://OCPATHINK.ORG)

## Ohio

School Choice Ohio  
[SCOHO.ORG](http://SCOHO.ORG)

## Pennsylvania

REACH Foundation  
[PASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG](http://PASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG)

Students First Pennsylvania  
[STUDENTSFIRSTPA.COM](http://STUDENTSFIRSTPA.COM)

## Rhode Island

Rhode Island Scholarship Alliance  
[RISCHOLARSHIPALLIANCE.ORG](http://RISCHOLARSHIPALLIANCE.ORG)

## South Carolina

South Carolinians for Responsible  
Government  
[SCRGOV.ORG](http://SCRGOV.ORG)

## Tennessee

Beacon Center of Tennessee  
[BEACONTN.ORG](http://BEACONTN.ORG)

Tennessee Federation for Children  
[TENNESSEE4CHILDREN.ORG](http://TENNESSEE4CHILDREN.ORG)

## Texas

Texas Parents Union  
[TXPARENTSUNION.ORG](http://TXPARENTSUNION.ORG)

Texas Public Policy Foundation  
[TEXASPOLICY.COM](http://TEXASPOLICY.COM)

## Utah

Parents for Choice in Education  
[CHOICEINEDUCATION.ORG](http://CHOICEINEDUCATION.ORG)

## Virginia

Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public  
Policy  
[THOMASJEFFERSONINST.ORG](http://THOMASJEFFERSONINST.ORG)

## Wisconsin

Hispanics for School Choice  
[HISPANICSFORSCHOOLCHOICE.COM](http://HISPANICSFORSCHOOLCHOICE.COM)

School Choice Wisconsin  
[SCHOOLCHOICEWI.ORG](http://SCHOOLCHOICEWI.ORG)



*Every child deserves the right to educational choice.*





Alliance  
for SCHOOL CHOICE

## About Us

### MISSION

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.

The Alliance for School Choice is a national educational choice leader, investing in states with the greatest potential for enacting or expanding high-quality, accountable school choice programs. We provide policy and program expertise, implement strategies and guidance, promote and defend school choice programs, and build local organizational infrastructure for long-term growth, impact, and sustainability. In collaboration with national and state allies, we work to create opportunities for systemic and sustainable educational reform that puts parents in charge, gives low-income families expanded opportunities, and improves educational outcomes for participating children.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### IN MEMORIAM

Peter M. Flanigan, *Alliance for School Choice co-Founder*

John T. Walton, *Alliance for School Choice co-Founder*

## SOURCES + CREDITS

The authors of the 2013–14 School Choice Yearbook utilized information from a variety of sources in developing this annual publication. To maintain the flow of the document without interruption, the sourcing for the book is provided in this section.

The authors remain grateful to the state officials and school choice organizations that participated in our rigorous research. Their dedication and hard work have helped to make the Alliance for School Choice's Yearbook unparalleled in its accuracy.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

All of the photographs that appear in the 2013–14 School Choice Yearbook were provided by educational choice organizations across the country. We are enormously grateful to the following organizations for providing photographs for use in this publication:

- Arizona Federation for Children
- Black Alliance for Educational Options
- Louisiana Federation for Children
- National School Choice Week
- School Choice Indiana
- School Choice Ohio
- Step Up for Students

## THE RESEARCH REALITY OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

*Comprehensive Longitudinal Evaluation of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program: Summary of Final Reports*, School Choice Demonstration Project, Department SCDP Milwaukee Evaluation Report #36, February 2012.

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*The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program Saves State Dollars*, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Report No. 08-68, December 2008.

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## STATE PROFILES

**ARIZONA:** Information on the Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit, Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit, and Lexie's Law provided by the Arizona Department of Revenue (Georganna Meyer). Information on the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program provided by the Arizona Department of Education (Aiden Fleming).

**FLORIDA:** Information on the John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program provided by the Florida Department of Education (Christopher Fenton). Information on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship provided by Step Up for Students (Jon East), which administers the program.

**GEORGIA:** Information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program provided by the Georgia Department of Education. Information on the Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program provided by the Georgia Department of Revenue (Monique R. Williams).

**INDIANA:** Information provided by the Indiana Department of Education.

**IOWA:** Information provided by the Iowa Department of Revenue (Jim McNulty).

**LOUISIANA:** Information provided by the Louisiana Department of Education (Lauren Perry and Jill Zimmerman).

**MISSISSIPPI:** Information provided by the Mississippi Department of Education (Nathan Oakley).

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Information provided by the Network for Educational Opportunity (Kate Baker).

**OHIO:** Information provided by the Ohio Department of Education (Erin Whitt).

**OKLAHOMA:** Information on the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program provided by the Oklahoma Department of Education (Anita Eccard). Information on the Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships Program provided by the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund, Inc. (Barney Semtner) and by GO for Catholic Schools (Elizabeth Vereecke).

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Information provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (James L. O'Donnell).

**RHODE ISLAND:** Information provided by the Rhode Island Department of Revenue.

**UTAH:** Information provided by Parents for Choice in Education (Judi Clark).

**VIRGINIA:** Information provided by the Thomas Jefferson Institute (Christian N. Braunlich).

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** Information provided by the D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, which administers the program.

**WISCONSIN:** Information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (Molly J. Koranda).



**CONTACT US**

1660 L Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: 202.280.1990

Email: [info@AllianceforSchoolChoice.org](mailto:info@AllianceforSchoolChoice.org)

[WWW.ALLIANCEFORSCHOOLCHOICE.ORG](http://WWW.ALLIANCEFORSCHOOLCHOICE.ORG)



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