

Regulating Private Schools in a Choice Environment

School Choice in America

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PUBLIC RULES ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS

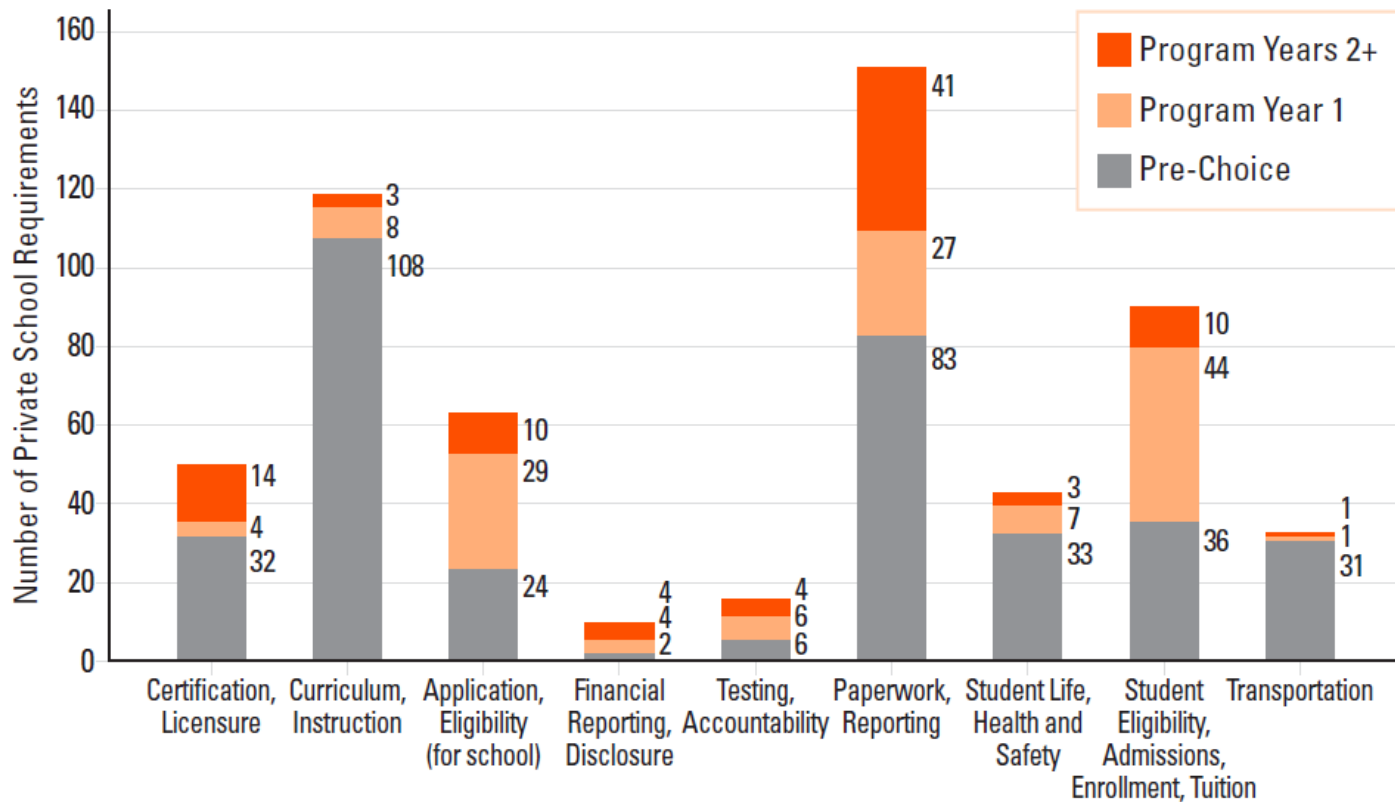
Measuring the Regulatory Impact of State
Statutes and School Choice Programs

Andrew D. **Catt**

MAY 2014

The Friedman Foundation
for Educational Choice
edchoice.org

Counts of Regulations on Private Schools by Time Period for All Programs Analyzed



Regulations on Participating Schools

- 575 total regulations
- ***62% of regulations existed prior to program implementation***
- Multitude of regulations regarding paperwork and reporting

Average Regulatory Impact Scores

Vouchers	-32.91
Tax-Credit Scholarships	-12.09
Education Savings Accounts	+3.00

Average Regulatory Impact Scores

Paperwork & Reporting	-7.91
Student Eligibility, Admissions, Enrollment & Tuition	-4.70
Application & Eligibility (for school)	-2.87
Certification & Licensure	-2.35
Student Life & Health & Safety	-1.30
Testing & Accountability	-1.09
Financial Reporting & Disclosure	-0.70
Curriculum & Instruction	-0.57
Transportation	+0.09

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EXPLORING TEXAS'S PRIVATE EDUCATION SECTOR

ANDREW D. CATT
JANUARY 2017

OVERVIEW

Exploring Texas's Private Education Sector is the eighth entry in the *School Survey Series*.¹ This brief synthesizes information about Texas's accredited private schools from a survey conducted by EdChoice, in collaboration with the Texas Catholic Conference and the Texas Private Schools Association.

Educational choice has come to the forefront of Texas education policy conversations. For years, organizations have pushed for tax-credit scholarships, a type of school choice program that allows taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships.²

More recently, Gov. Greg Abbott suggested educational choice programs could help alleviate issues regarding the state's services for students with special needs.³ One type of program—education savings accounts (ESAs)—has served students with special needs in other states, providing students more flexibility than tax-credit scholarships and resulting in high parental satisfaction. ESAs allow parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds may cover only educational expenses, such as private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, and even other higher education expenses.

From April 7 to May 31, 2016, EdChoice administered a first-of-its-kind survey about these types of choice programs and more to Texas's private K-12 schools in collaboration with the Texas Catholic Conference and the Texas Private Schools

KEY FINDINGS

- Accredited private schools in Texas have at least 31,650 open seats with a projected estimate closer to 127,000 open seats for K-12 students
- 27 percent of schools are familiar with education savings accounts (ESAs)
 - 63 percent would or probably would participate in an ESA program open to all students
- 39 percent of schools are familiar with tax-credit scholarships
 - 73 percent would or probably would participate in a tax-credit scholarship program open to all students
- Schools are mostly concerned with regulations regarding paperwork and reporting, testing and accountability, setting of curriculum and instruction, and school admissions and enrollment guidelines
- 73 percent of private schools serve students with special needs
- 95 percent of private schools administer at least one nationally norm-referenced test

Program Rules and Regulations

What program rules or regulations would concern your school the most?

Average Regulatory Concern

Regulatory Category	Arizona	Arkansas	Colorado	Idaho	Nebraska	Nevada	Texas	Average
Curriculum and Instruction	3.5	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.7
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.6
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5
Testing and Accountability	3.1	3.4	3.6	2.9	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.4
Paperwork and Reporting	3.1	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.4
Tuition and Fees	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.3
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	3.2	3.3	3	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2
Testing and Accountability	3.1	3.4	3.6	2.9	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.4
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.0
Building Safety and Security	2.7	2.6	2.9	2.3	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.8
Number of Respondents	124	53	139	46	93	58	278	

(1 = Very Low, 5 = Very High)

Testing

- Does your school administer some type of norm-referenced assessment?
 - Do you test all, most, or a few grade levels?
 - Do you administer the state test, some other national norm-referenced test, or both?

	Arizona	Arkansas	Colorado	Idaho	Nebraska	Nevada	Texas	Average
Test Students	74%	87%	84%	83%	94%	81%	95%	85%
State Only	5%	33%	3%	19%	2%	0%	2%	9%
State + Other(s)	22%	7%	6%	2%	2%	13%	1%	8%
Other(s) Only	73%	60%	92%	79%	94%	88%	97%	83%
Iowa Assessments	21%	33%	38%	19%	7%	19%	60%	28%
TerraNova	24%	9%	18%	7%	25%	31%	9%	18%
State Assessment	27%	40%	8%	21%	4%	13%	3%	17%
Stanford 10	13%	42%	9%	14%	4%	6%	7%	14%
MAPs	7%	-	3%	16%	27%	4%	-	11%
ACT Aspire	3%	25%	5%	-	7%	10%	4%	9%
ACT	4%	25%	10%	2%	6%	-	4%	9%
PSAT	7%	-	6%	5%	2%	6%	9%	6%
ERB	3%	-	3%	2%	-	8%	7%	5%
SAT	4%	-	6%	2%	-	4%	5%	4%