Private School Choice Programs

How Vouchers, ESAs and Tax-Credit Scholarships Work

DREW CATT

Director of State Research and Special Projects

Types of Private Educational Choice Programs

- Vouchers
- Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)
- Tax-Credit Scholarships

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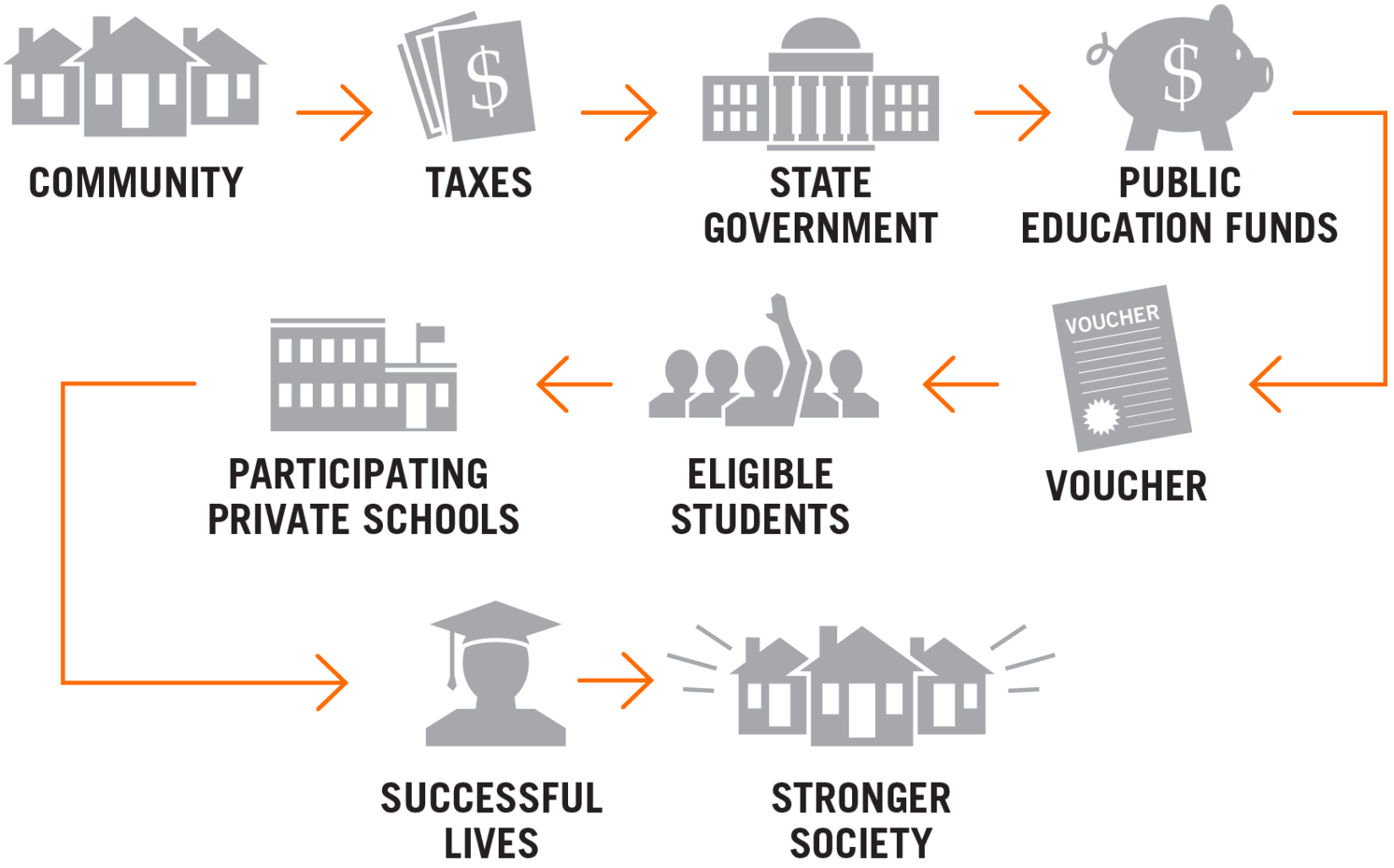
SCHOOL VOUCHERS

SCHOOL VOUCHERS

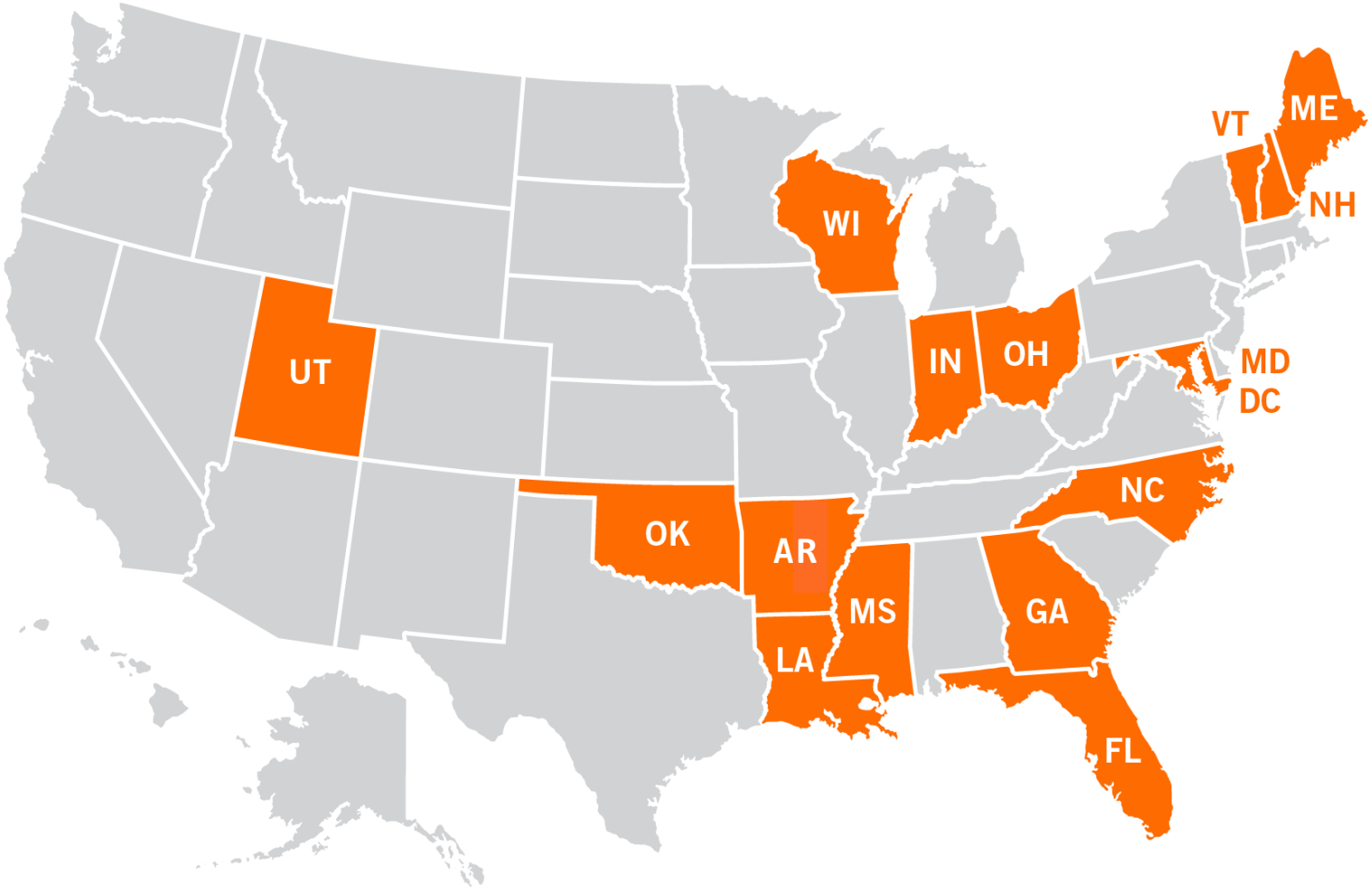
Vouchers give parents the freedom to choose a private school for their children, using all or part of the public funding set aside for their children's education. Under such a program, funds typically expended by a school district would be allocated to a participating family in the form of a voucher to pay partial or full tuition for their child's private school, including both religious and non-religious options.

WHAT ARE SCHOOL VOUCHERS?

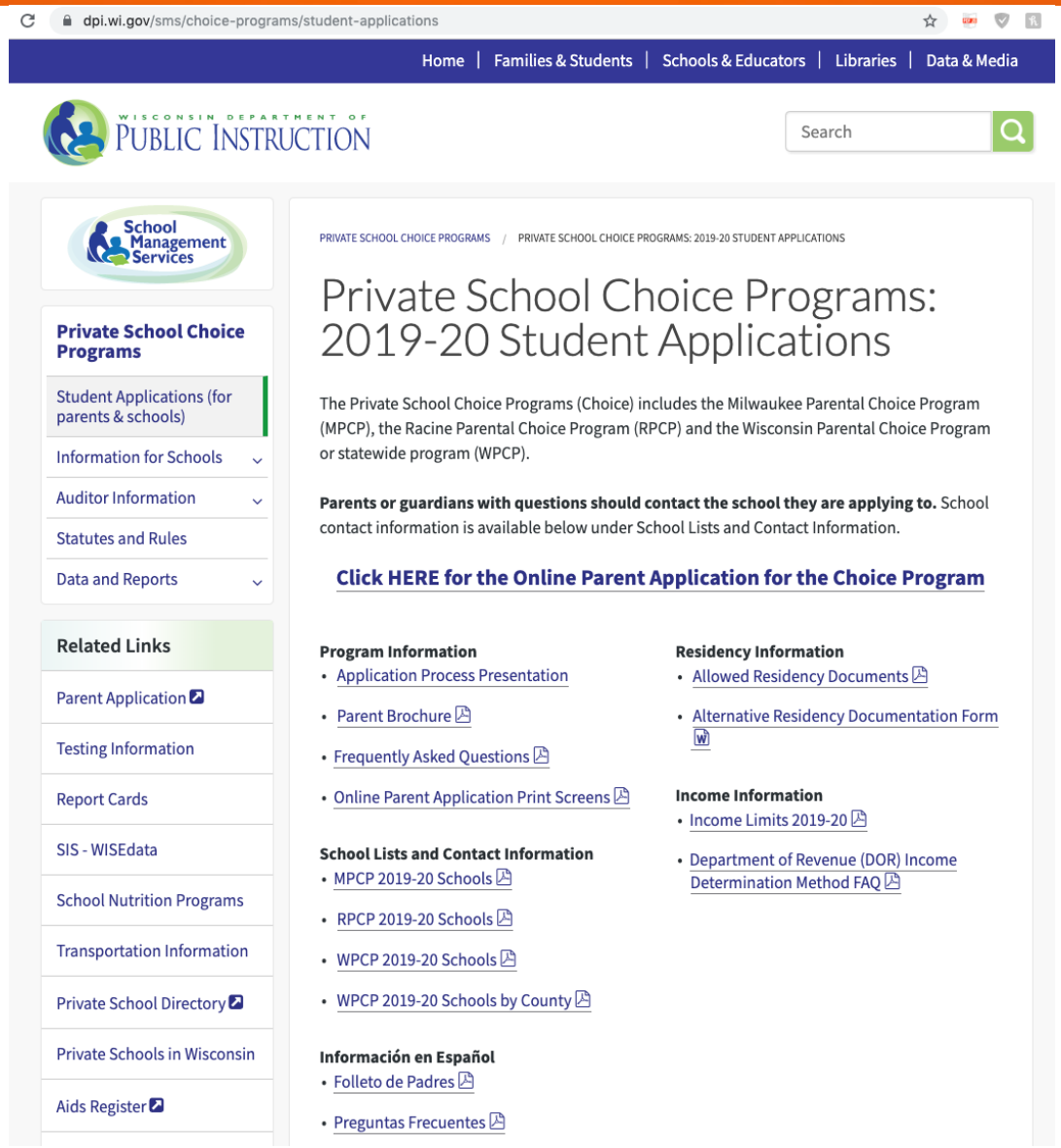
HOW VOUCHERS WORK



16 STATES, **D.C.**, AND **PUERTO RICO** HAVE SCHOOL VOUCHERS
≥197,939 STUDENTS USE VOUCHERS NATIONWIDE



VOUCHER EXAMPLE



dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs/student-applications

Home | Families & Students | Schools & Educators | Libraries | Data & Media

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Search

School Management Services

Private School Choice Programs

- Student Applications (for parents & schools)
- Information for Schools
- Auditor Information
- Statutes and Rules
- Data and Reports

Related Links

- Parent Application
- Testing Information
- Report Cards
- SIS - WISEdata
- School Nutrition Programs
- Transportation Information
- Private School Directory
- Private Schools in Wisconsin
- Aids Register

PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS / PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS: 2019-20 STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Private School Choice Programs: 2019-20 Student Applications

The Private School Choice Programs (Choice) includes the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), the Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP) and the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program or statewide program (WPCP).

Parents or guardians with questions should contact the school they are applying to. School contact information is available below under School Lists and Contact Information.

Click HERE for the Online Parent Application for the Choice Program

Program Information
- Application Process Presentation
- Parent Brochure
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Online Parent Application Print Screens

School Lists and Contact Information
- MPCP 2019-20 Schools
- RPCP 2019-20 Schools
- WPCP 2019-20 Schools
- WPCP 2019-20 Schools by County

Información en Español
- Folleto de Padres
- Preguntas Frecuentes

Residency Information
- Allowed Residency Documents
- Alternative Residency Documentation Form

Income Information
- Income Limits 2019-20
- Department of Revenue (DOR) Income Determination Method FAQ

Private School Choice Programs: 2019-20 Student Applications

Private School Choice Programs

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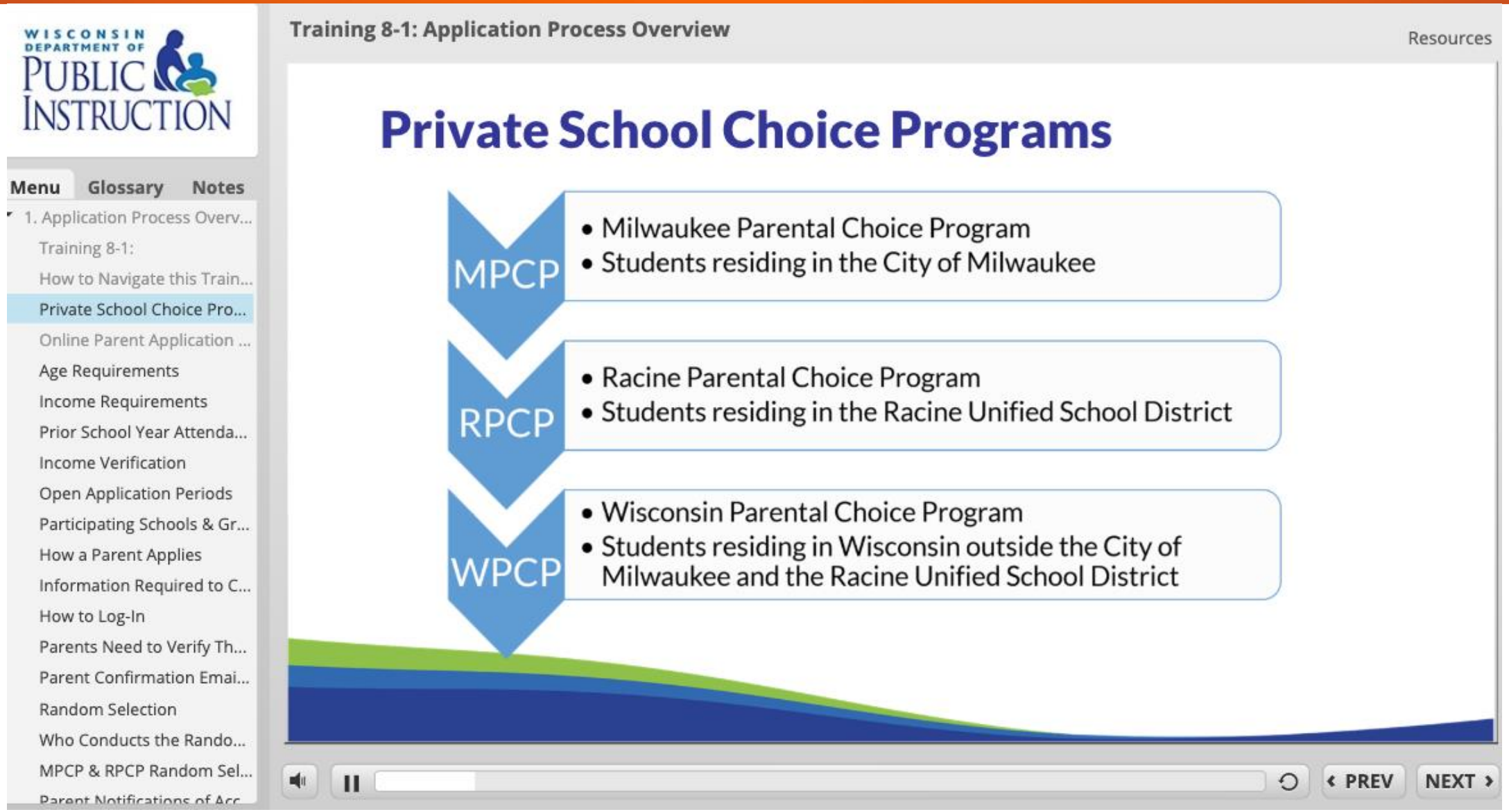
VOUCHER EXAMPLE



VOUCHER EXAMPLE

After logging in, the parent will be given an option to change their email address and/or password. If they do not wish to change them, press "Continue"

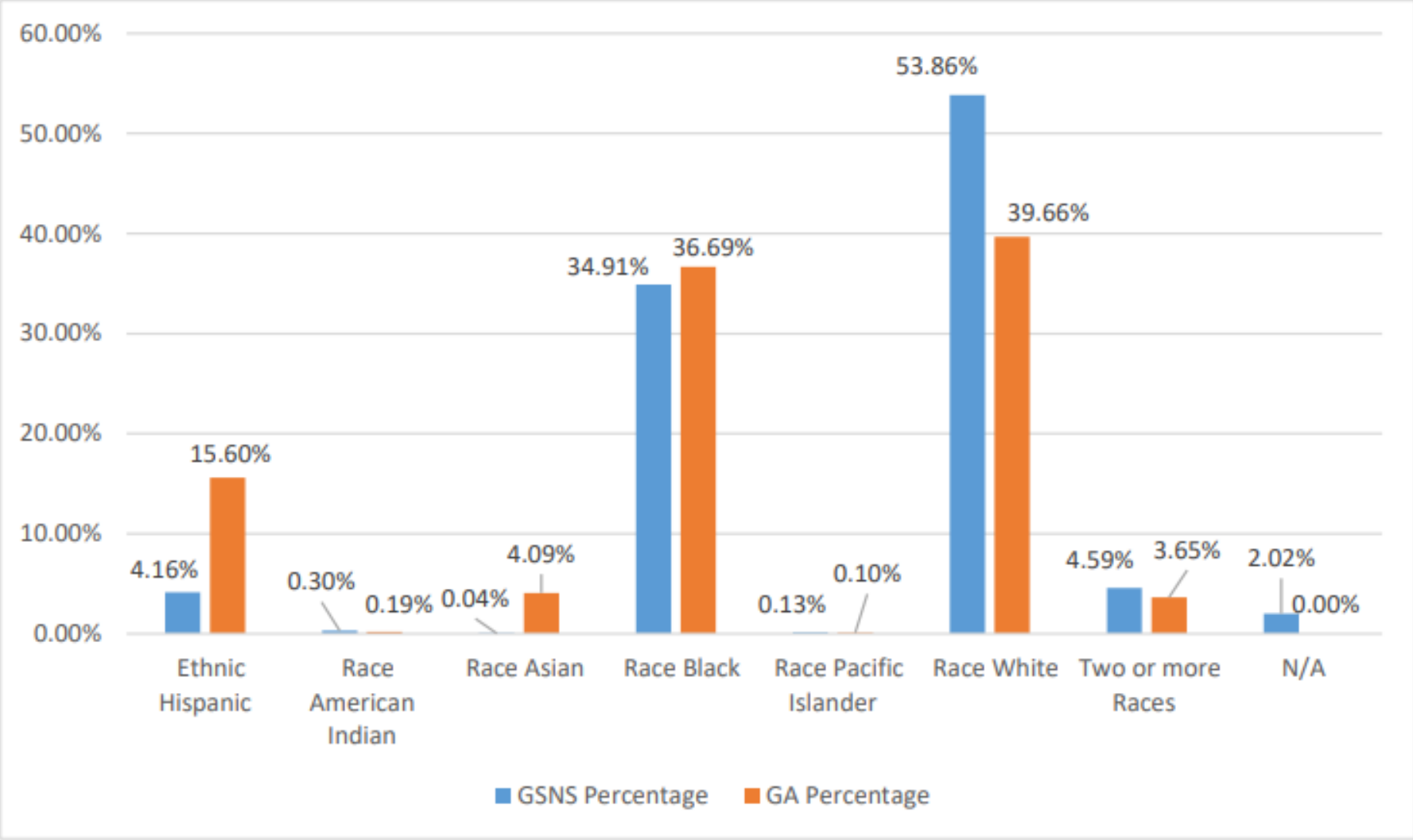
WHO USES VOUCHERS?

Geographic Area	Eligibility	Avg. Funding	% Public PPE
D.C.	Low-income	$9,531	46%
Georgia	Special needs	$6,223	66%
Indiana	Low- and middle-income, special needs, failing school	$4,449	46%
Maryland	Low-income	$2,047	14%
North Carolina (x2)	Low-income & special needs	$3,936 $5,953 SPED	46% 70% SPED

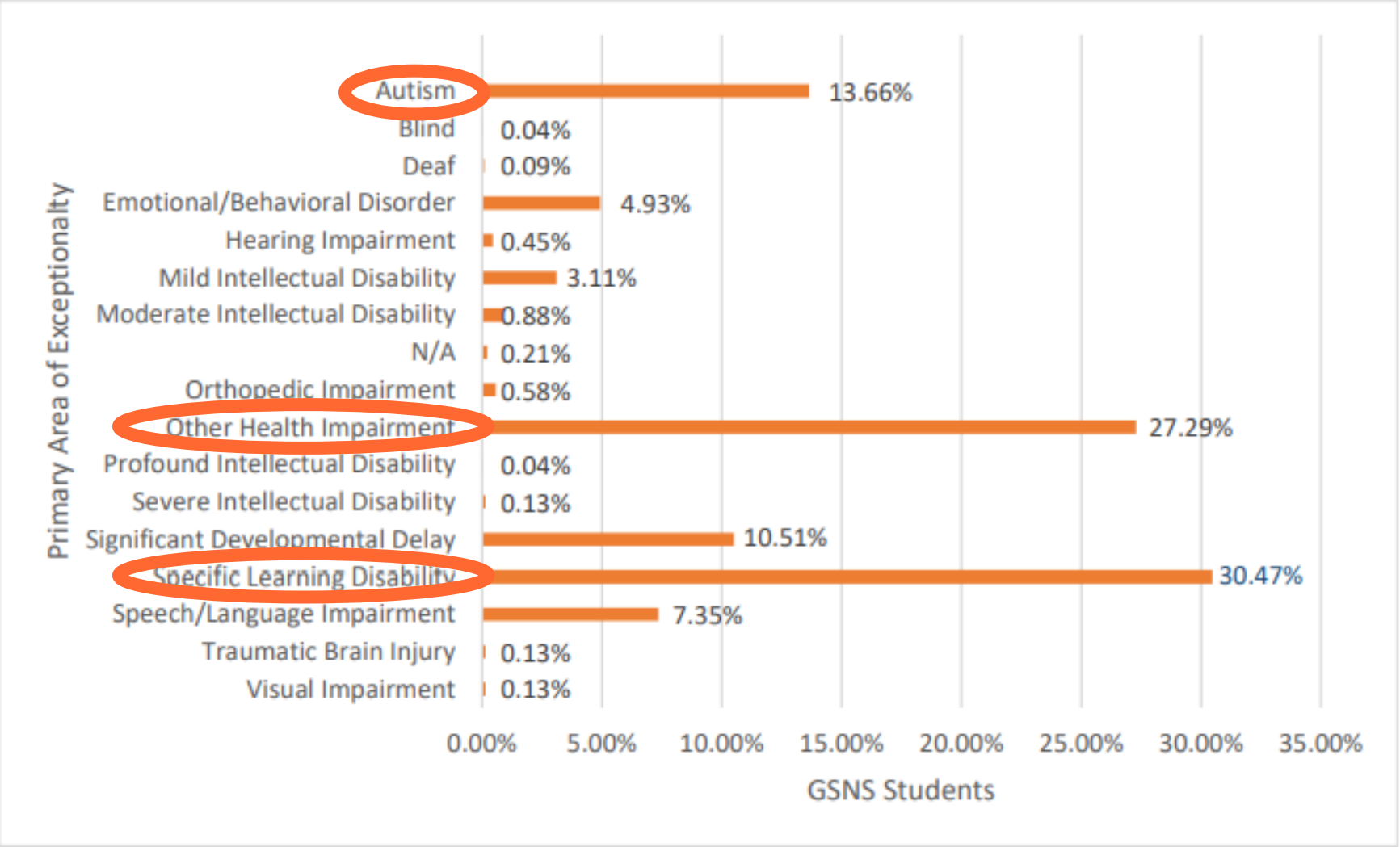
WHO USES VOUCHERS?

Geographic Area	Eligibility	Eligibility Rate	Participation	Participation Rate
D.C.	16,919	33%	1,645	10%
Georgia	202,308	10%	4,664	2%
Indiana	719,319	50%	36,290	5%
Maryland	59,452	10%	3,168	4%
North Carolina (x2)	Low-income: 475,204 SPED: 198,810	Low-income: 44% SPED: 11%	Low-Income: 9,651 SPED: 1,754	Low-income: 2% SPED: 1%

WHO USES VOUCHERS?



WHO USES VOUCHERS?



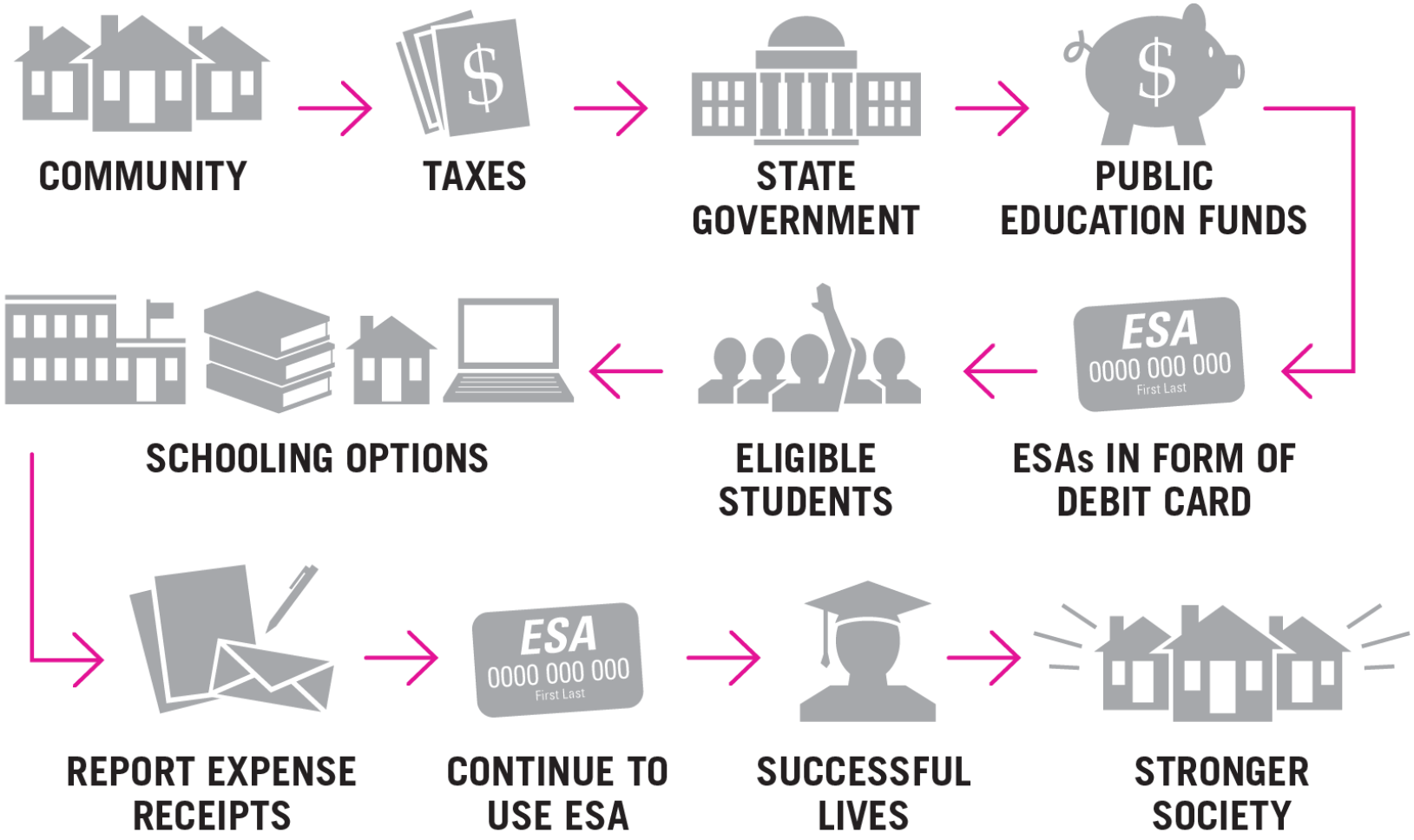
EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

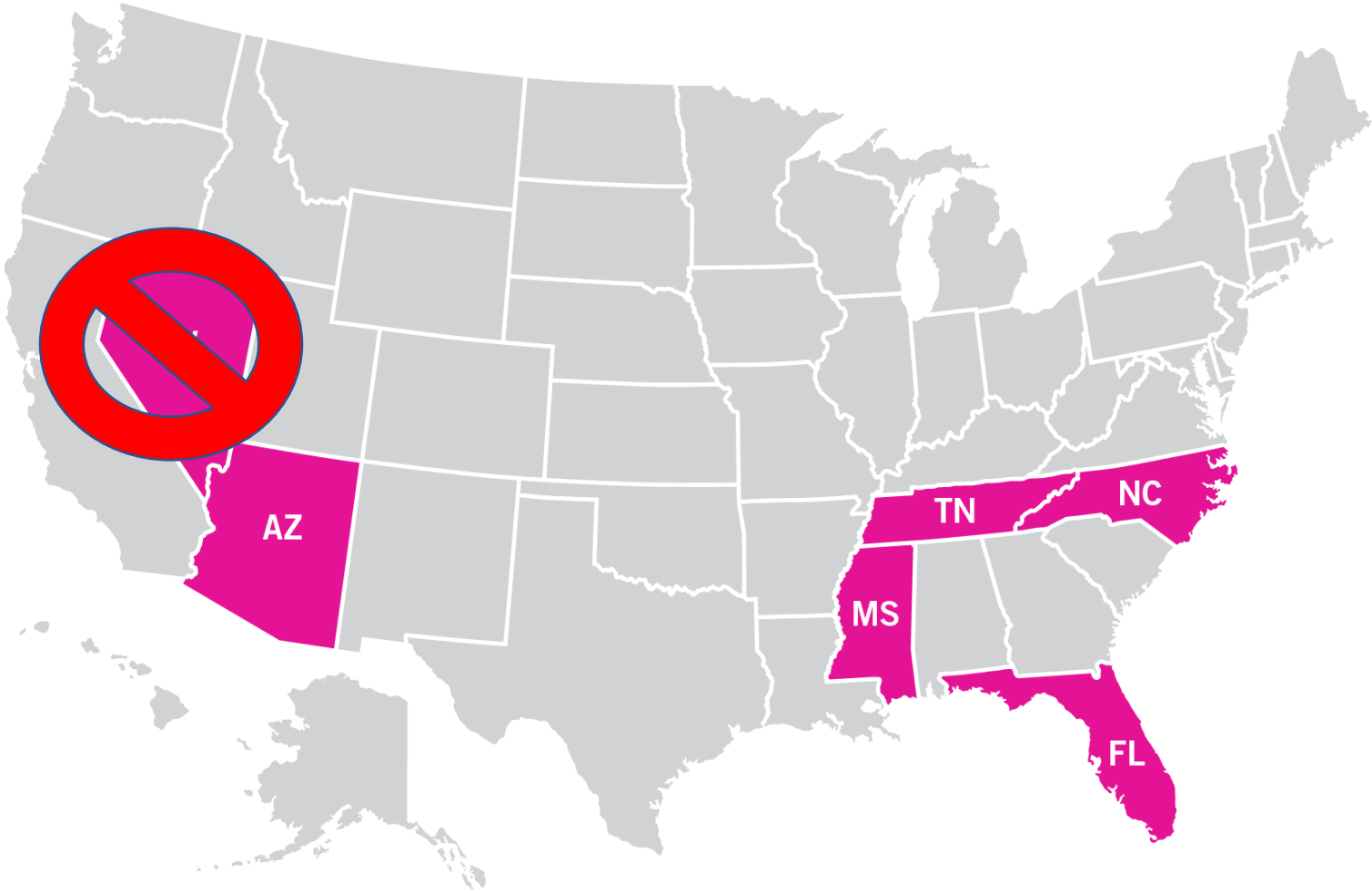
ESAs allow parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds—often distributed to families via debit card—can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized services and materials. Some ESAs, but not all, even allow students to use their funds to pay for a combination of public school courses and private services.

WHAT IS AN EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT?

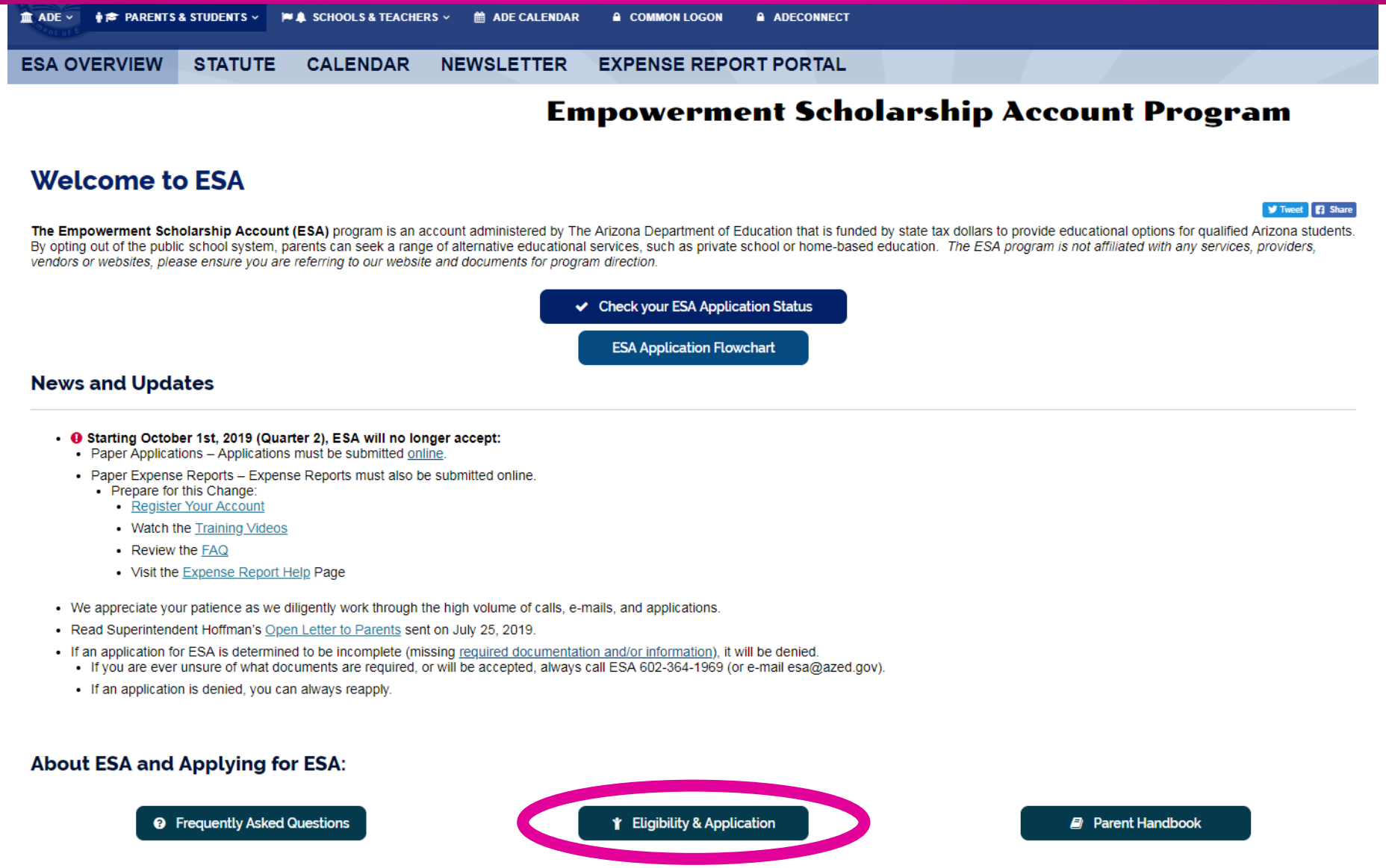
HOW ESAs WORK



5 STATES HAVE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
15,296 STUDENTS USE ESAs NATIONWIDE



ESA Example


ADE
PARENTS & STUDENTS
SCHOOLS & TEACHERS
ADE CALENDAR
COMMON LOGON
ADECONNECT
ESA OVERVIEW
STATUTE
CALENDAR
NEWSLETTER
EXPENSE REPORT PORTAL
Empowerment Scholarship Account Program
Welcome to ESA
Tweet
Share
The Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program is an account administered by The Arizona Department of Education that is funded by state tax dollars to provide educational options for qualified Arizona students. By opting out of the public school system, parents can seek a range of alternative educational services, such as private school or home-based education. The ESA program is not affiliated with any services, providers, vendors or websites, please ensure you are referring to our website and documents for program direction.
Check your ESA Application Status
ESA Application Flowchart
News and Updates
Starting October 1st, 2019 (Quarter 2), ESA will no longer accept:
Paper Applications – Applications must be submitted online.
Paper Expense Reports – Expense Reports must also be submitted online.
Prepare for this Change:
Register Your Account
Watch the Training Videos
Review the FAQ
Visit the Expense Report Help Page
We appreciate your patience as we diligently work through the high volume of calls, e-mails, and applications.
Read Superintendent Hoffman's Open Letter to Parents sent on July 25, 2019.
If an application for ESA is determined to be incomplete (missing required documentation and/or information), it will be denied.
If you are ever unsure of what documents are required, or will be accepted, always call ESA 602-364-1969 (or e-mail esa@azed.gov).
If an application is denied, you can always reapply.
About ESA and Applying for ESA:
Frequently Asked Questions
Eligibility & Application
Parent Handbook

ESA Example

ESA OVERVIEW STATUTE CALENDAR NEWSLETTER EXPENSE REPORT PORTAL

Empowerment Scholarship Account Program

Eligibility Requirements & Application

Tweet Share

The Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) has nine eligibility types. If your student qualifies for more than one, you are welcome to contact ESA for assistance.

This page is updated regularly to provide the most current requirements reflecting legislative and administrative changes and updates. Check back prior to applying to make sure your documents and information meet these requirements for ease of applying. Carefully review the information below and contact ESA with any questions. **If your application is incomplete, it will be denied.**

Approaching Deadlines

Quarter	Quarter Period	Application Deadline	New Contract Deadline	Funding Dates***
1*	July 1 – September 30	May 1st	September 30th	July 1st – September 30th
2	October 1 – December 31	September 1st**	December 31st	October 1st – December 31st
3	January 1 – March 31	November 1st	March 31st	January 1st – March 31st
4	April 1 – June 30	February 1st	June 30th	April 1st – June 30th

*Effective for the 2020-2021 School Year
**Effective for the 2019-2020 School Year
***The date that funding is requested is based on the date the contract is returned.

For more information, please click here.

ESA Application Flowchart

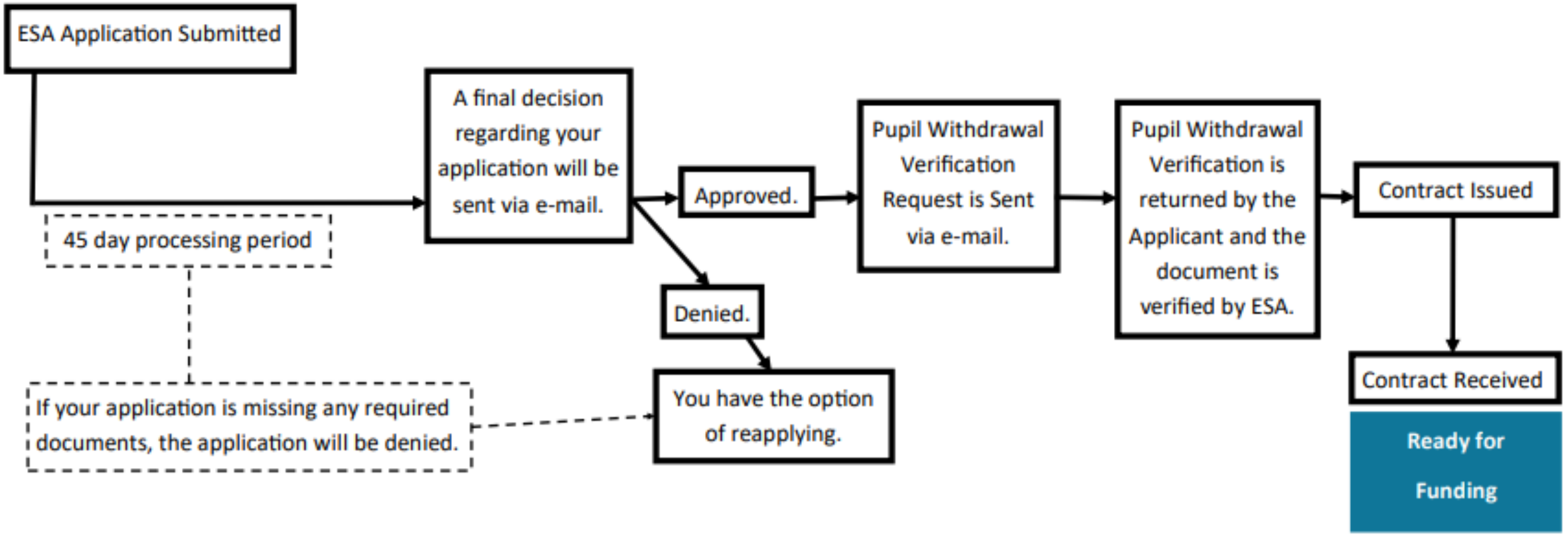
ESA Application processing time is 45 days.

ESA Application

Carefully review the information on this page and contact ESA with any questions. **If your application is incomplete, it will be denied.**

ESA Example

I Applied for the Empowerment Scholarship Account, What's Next?



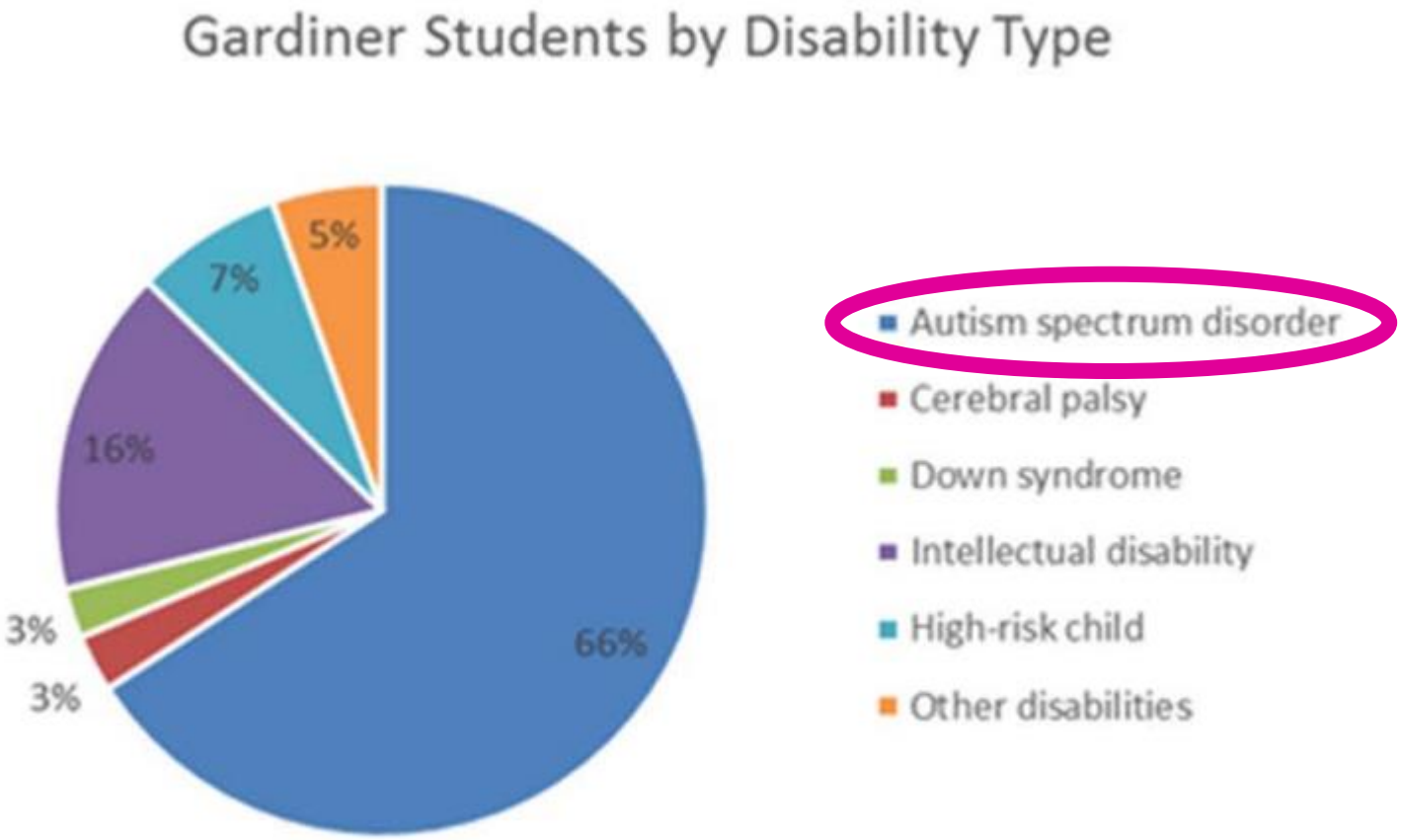
WHO USES ESAs?

State	Eligibility	Avg. Funding	% Public PPE
Arizona	SPED, foster care, military, failing schools, etc.	$6,148 $26,707 SPED	90%
Florida	Special needs	$4,985	100+%*
Mississippi	Special needs	$6,494	77%
North Carolina	Special needs	$6,547	77%
Tennessee	Special needs	$4,696	54%

WHO USES ESAs?

State	Eligibility	Eligibility Rate	Participation	Participation Rate
Arizona	259,223	22%	6,579	3%
Florida	343,648	11%	11,917	3%
Mississippi	65,819	19%	356	<1%
North Carolina	199,512	11%	277	<1%
Tennessee	19,837	2%	137	<1%

WHO USES ESAs?



** Other Disabilities include Prader-Willi Syndrome, Spina Bifida, Williams Syndrome, Muscular Dystrophy, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, and certain rare diseases.*

WHO USES ESAs?

TN Department of Education | Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program

	Number of Students Enrolled in the IEA Program	*Percentage of Students Enrolled in the IEA Program**
Autism	79	58%
Deaf-Blindness	0	0%
Developmental Delay	11	8%
Hearing Impairments	10	7%
Intellectual Disability	27	20%
Multiple Disabilities	3	2%
Orthopedic Impairments	4	3%
Traumatic Brain Injury	2	1%
Visual Impairments	1	1%

WHO USES ESAs?

Race	Mississippi 2017–18	North Carolina 2019–20 Applicants
American Indian or Alaskan Native	<1%	<1%
Asian	1%	3%
Black or African American	24%	27%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%	<1%
Other / Two or More Races	<1%	11%
White	59%	59%
Unknown	14%	-

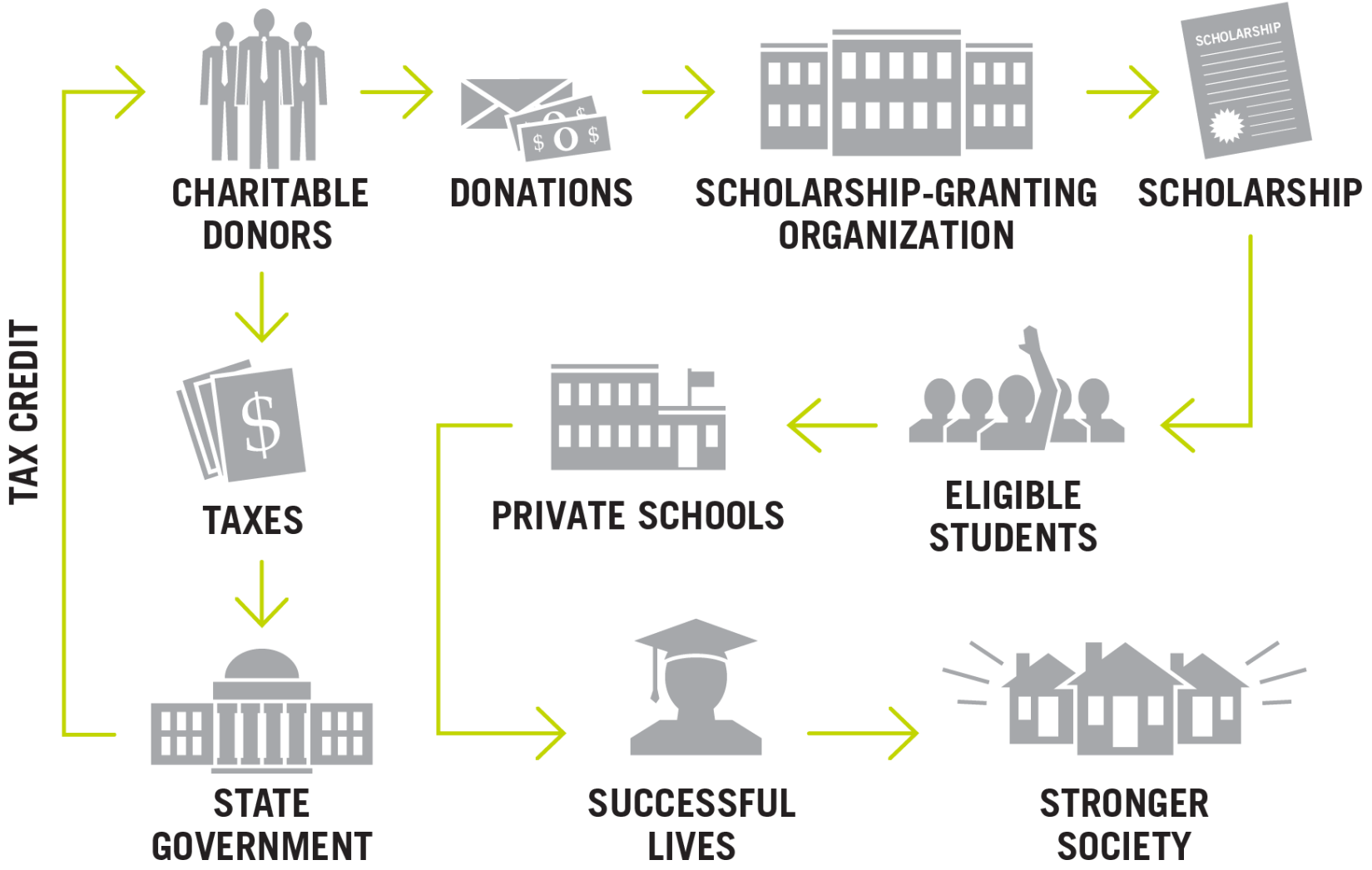
TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

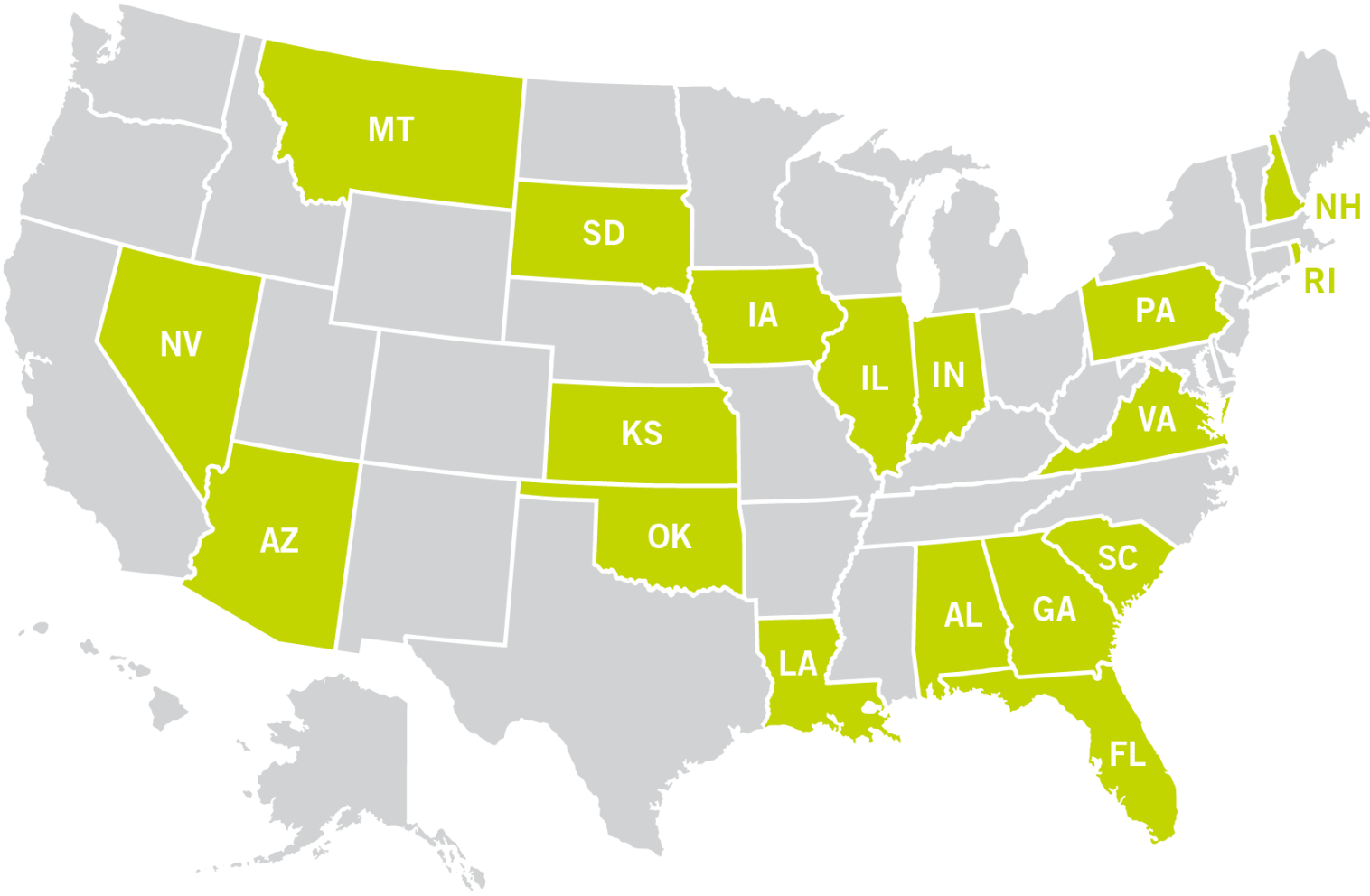
Tax-credit scholarships allow taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships. Eligible taxpayers can include both individuals and businesses. In some states, scholarship-giving nonprofits also provide innovation grants to public schools and/or transportation assistance to students who choose alternative public schools.

WHAT IS A TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP?

HOW TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS WORK



18 STATES HAVE TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
≥293,487 SCHOLARSHIPS NATIONWIDE



TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP EXAMPLE

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND EST. 2014 OKLAHOMA

HOME ABOUT SCHOOLS FAQs DONATE APPLY NEWS CONTACT

SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY 2019 GOLD GUIDESTAR

What Are Tax Credit Scholarships?

Tax-credit scholarships, sometimes called scholarship tax credits, are different from other school choice programs, such as school vouchers. What sets them apart? Tax credit scholarships uses only privately donated money, whereas vouchers reach into state coffers, and the scholarships can be sought at any participating school. To learn more about how tax-credit scholarships work, watch this video that was produced by the Friedman Foundation for EdChoice in Indianapolis, IN.

Another great video was locally produced by our member school, Wesleyan Christian School in Bartlesville. Click here to watch.

Our Oklahoma Program

TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP EXAMPLE

Step 1: Check School Eligibility

Before applying for an Opportunity Scholarship Fund scholarship, a student must be accepted at a qualifying private school, and that school must be a participant in the Opportunity Scholarship Fund program.

There are over 60 accredited private K-12 schools in Oklahoma who are members of the Opportunity Scholarship Fund.

But not all accredited private schools have signed up. Our list of schools show who have formally joined the OSF. Also inquire at your school. If the school your child attends is an OSF participant, go to Step 2.

Click below to view a current list.

≡ List of Schools

Step 2: Determine Student Eligibility

1. The eligible student must: 1) be lawfully present in the United States, AND have been accepted by an accredited Oklahoma private school for the 2019-20 school year.

2. The student must meet ONE of the following three criteria: Live in a family within the Adjusted Gross Income guidelines OR; attend, or live in the attendance zone, of a public school designated as "in need of improvement" by the State Board of Education OR; attended an Oklahoma public school with an individualized education program (IEP).

3. If the student is eligible, go to Step 3.

2019-20 INCOME GUIDELINES

Family size of 2	$ 93,851
Family size of 3	$118,382
Family size of 4	$142,913
Family size of 5	$167,444

For each additional family member, add $24,531

Please consult the member school's income eligibility guidelines as the school's guidelines are usually lower than those allowed under this law.

Step 3: Complete Application and Submit to School

1. Complete an application for each of your children eligible for a scholarship.

2. Include the first two pages of the family's 2018 federal income tax return (Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ). Speak with your school's leadership about accepted alternate proofs of income.

3. Return the completed application(s) and adjusted gross income documentation to the accredited private school at which your child is accepted. ***DO NOT send the application directly to the OSF.***

4. The school will evaluate the family financial needs in accordance with school policy. If the student is deemed eligible and appropriate by the participating school administration, the school will endorse the application, include a recommended scholarship amount, and forward the application to the Opportunity Scholarship Fund office for processing.

5. If there are available funds in the school account, and if the student meets all eligibility requirements established in the law, the OSF will prepare a scholarship check made out jointly to the parent and school – and will mail the check to the school.

Download Application

Download Application (Spanish)

WHO USES TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS?

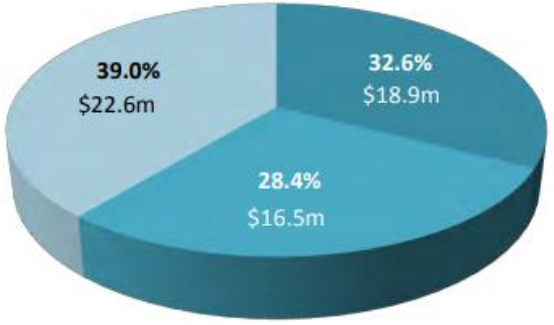
State	Eligibility	Avg. Funding	% Public PPE
Alabama	Low-income	$3,211	35%
Arizona (x4)	Universal, low-income, SPED	Original: $1,780 Low-Income: $2,470 “Switcher”: $1,476 Lexie’s Law: $5,214	Original: 24% Low-Income: 33% “Switcher”: 19% Lexie’s Law: 69%
Georgia	Universal	$4,008	42%
Indiana	Low- and middle-income	$2,108	22%
Virginia	Low- and middle-income	$3,134	28%

WHO USES TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS?

State	Eligibility	Eligibility Rate	Participation	Participation Rate
Alabama	180,792	37%	3,837	2%
Arizona (x4)	Original: 678,438 Low-Income: 387,245 “Switcher”: 1,177,655 Lexie’s Law: 140,702	Original: 100% Low-Income: 58% “Switcher”: 99% Lexie’s Law: 12%	Original: 32,585 Low-Income: 20,951 “Switcher”: 22,348 Lexie’s Law: 1,103	Original: 5% Low-Income: 5% “Switcher”: 2% Lexie’s Law: 1%
Georgia	1,891,757	89%	13,895	1%
Indiana	434,594	60%	9,743	2%
Virginia	347,320	39%	4,435	1%

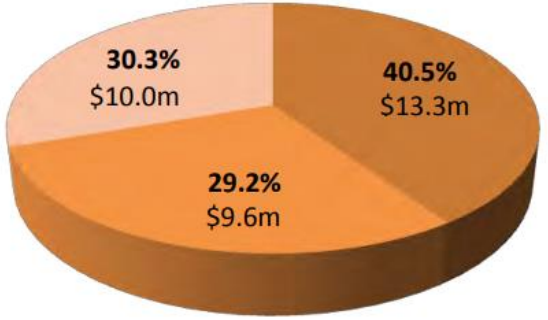
WHO USES TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS?

Overall Share of FY2017 Original Individual Scholarships by Family Income



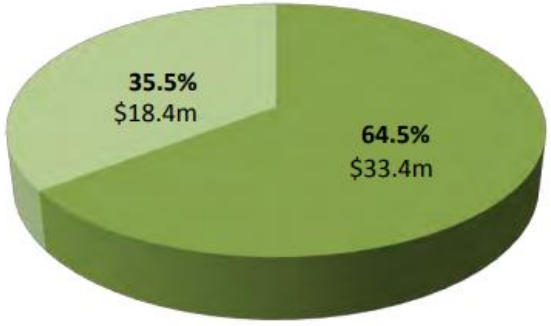
- Families with income up to 185% of poverty level
- Families with income from 185% to 342.25% of poverty level
- Families with income greater than 342.25% of poverty level

Overall Share of FY2017 Switcher Individual Scholarships by Family Income



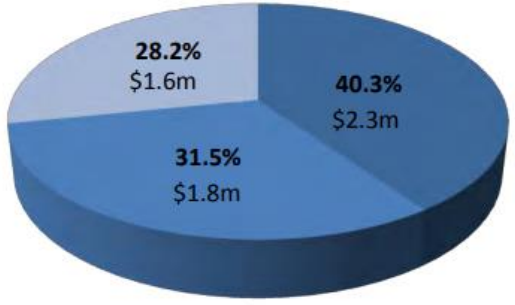
- Families with income up to 185% of poverty level
- Families with income from 185% to 342.25% of poverty level
- Families with income greater than 342.25% of poverty level

Overall Share of FY2017 Low-Income Corporate Scholarships by Family Income



- Families with income up to 185% of poverty level
- Families with income from 185% to 342.25% of poverty level

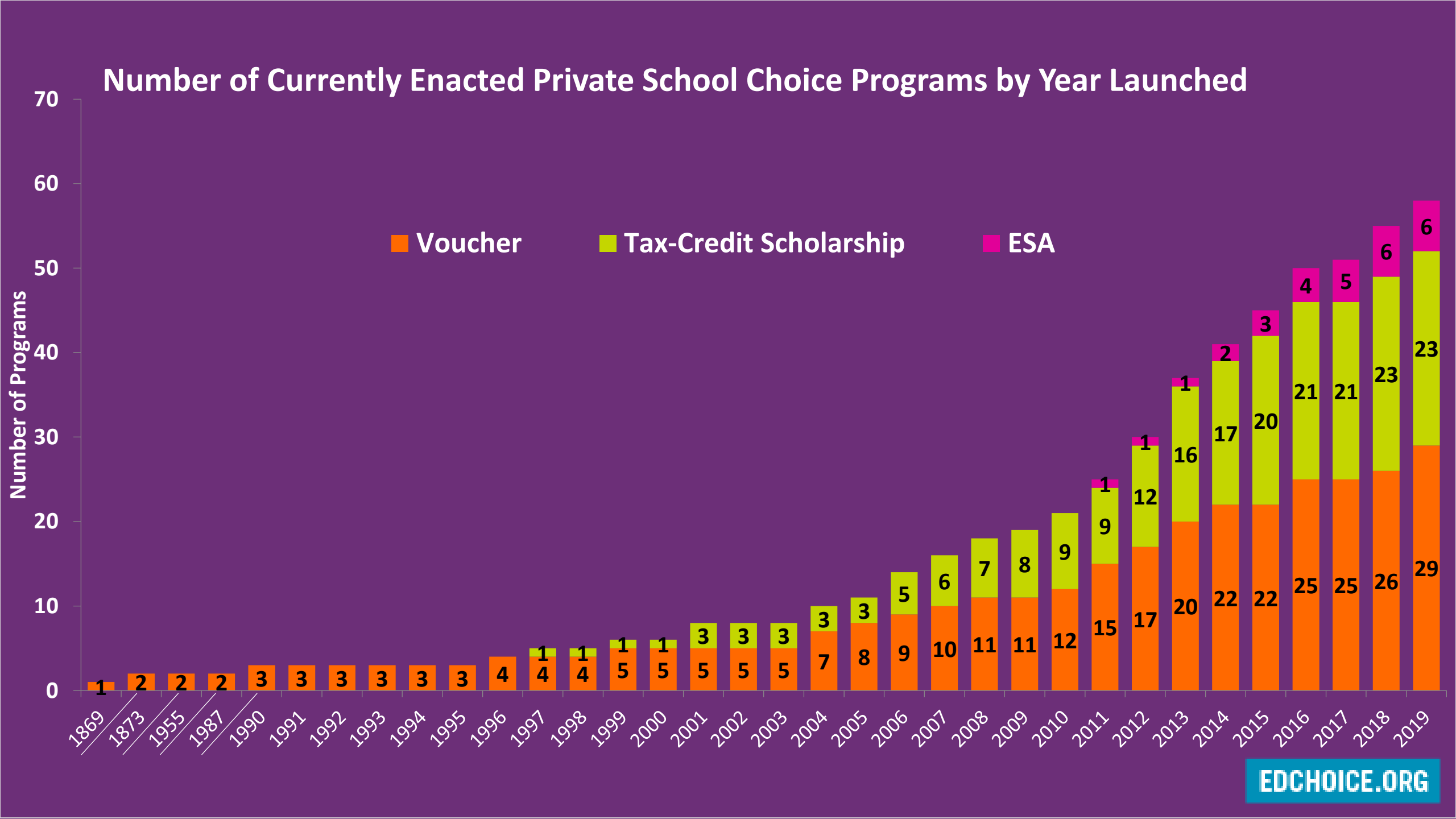
Overall Share of FY2017 Disabled/Displaced Corporate Scholarships by Family Income



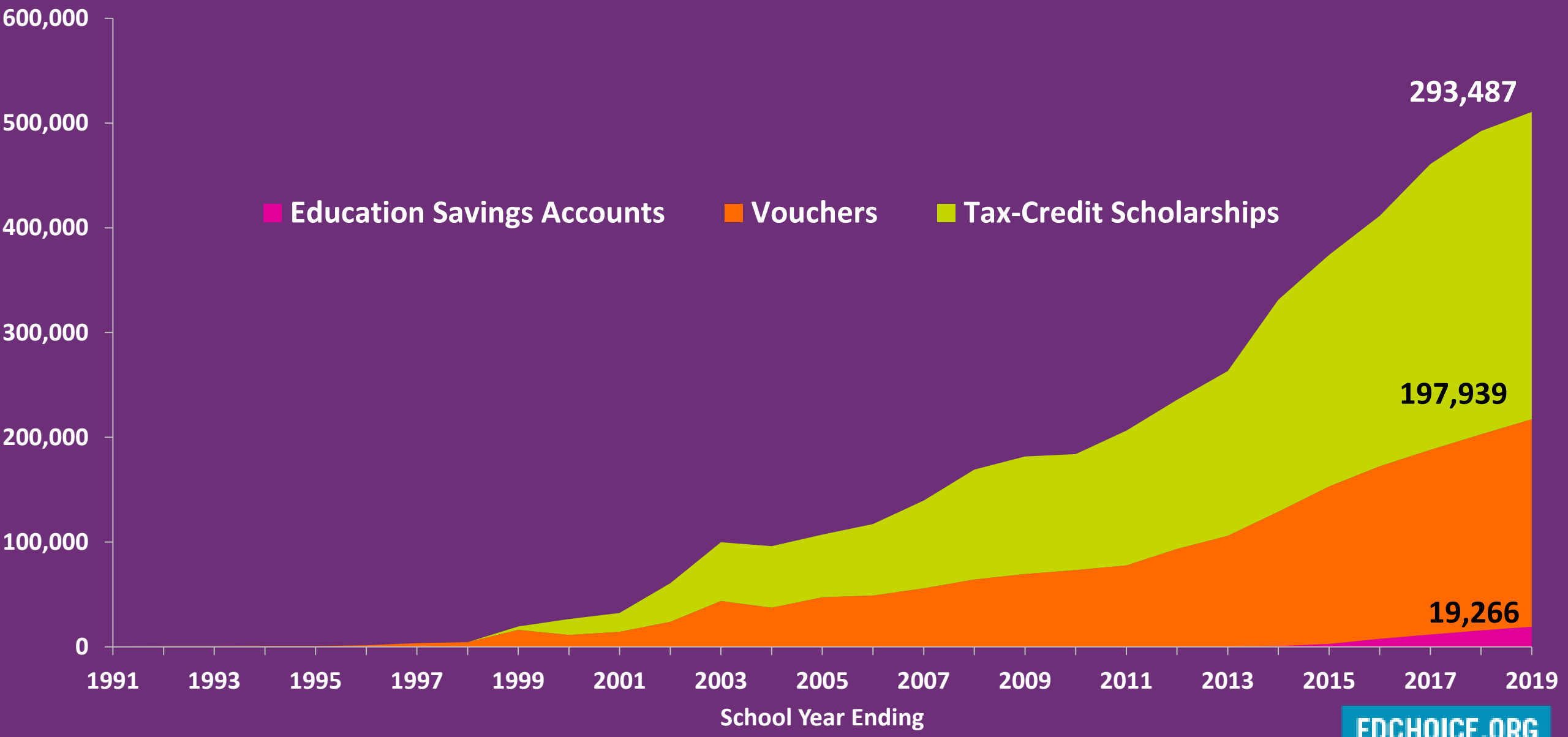
- Families with income up to 185% of poverty level
- Families with income from 185% to 342.25% of poverty level
- Families with income greater than 342.25% of poverty level

65 private educational choice programs in 29 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico

- 29 voucher programs (18 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico)
- 23 tax-credit scholarship programs (18 states)
- 5 ESA programs (5 states)


Number of Currently Enacted Private School Choice Programs by Year Launched
Number of Programs
Voucher
Tax-Credit Scholarship
ESA
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1869 1873 1955 1987 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019
1 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 5 7 8 9 10 11 11 12 15 17 20 22 22 25 25 26 29
1 1 1 3 3 3 1 1 1 3 3 3 5 6 7 8 9 12 16 17 20 21 21 23 23
1 1 2 3 4 5 6
EDCHOICE.ORG

Number of Students Receiving a Voucher or ESA and Number of Tax-Credit Scholarships



EDCHOICE.ORG

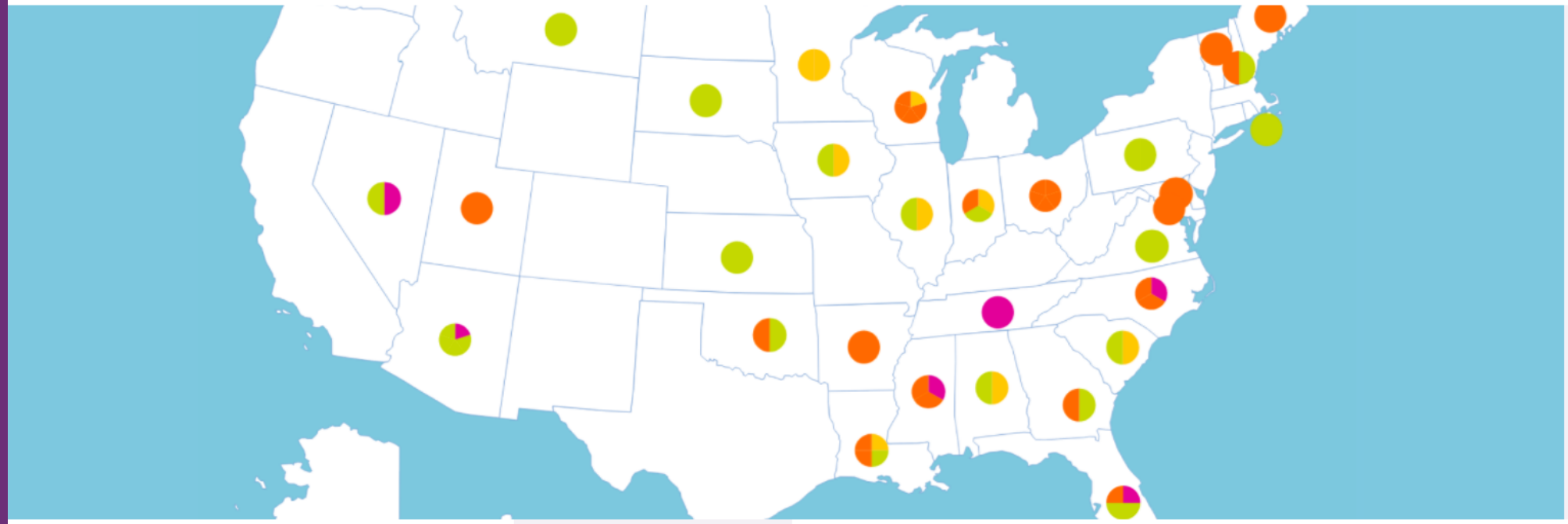
EdChoice

Secure | https://www.edchoice.org

Parents and Educators | Policymakers | Researchers | Media

edCHOICE

MENU



SCHOOL CHOICE IN AMERICA

Use our interactive map and data dashboard to compare programs.

Whatever choice program data you need, our School Choice in America Dashboard has it. Bonus: You can download customized spreadsheets with the data you care about most.

USE THE DASHBOARD

SCHOOL CHOICE IN AMERICA
Use our interactive map and data dashboard to compare programs.

OUR RESEARCH LIBRARY
Browse our reports and inform education decision makers.

EDCHOICE AT A GLANCE
How many educational choice programs are there and in how many states?

EDCHOICE.ORG

Most Recent Data Available

State	Program Type	Program Name	Participation	Participation Rate	Eligibility	Eligibility Rate	Average Funding	Public Funding	Schools
AL	Tax-Credit Scholarship	Alabama – Education Scholarship Program	3,339	2%	183,303	37%	$5,468	60%	204
AL	Individual Tax Credit/Deduction	Alabama – Accountability Act of 2013 Parent-Taxpayer Refundable Tax Credits	122	<1%	43,876	5%	$2,424	27%	N/A
AR	Voucher	Arkansas – Succeed Scholarship Program	153	<1%	71,154	14%	$6,713	68%	31
AZ	Tax-Credit Scholarship	Arizona – Original Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program	31,578	5%	665,587	100%	$1,724	23%	330
AZ	Tax-Credit Scholarship	Arizona – Low-Income Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program	20,076	5%	387,245	58%	$2,165	29%	242
AZ	Education Savings Account	Arizona – Empowerment Scholarship Accounts	4,525*	2%	259,223	22%	$12,400.29†	163%	134
AZ	Tax-Credit Scholarship	Arizona – "Switcher" Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program	20,976	2%	1,101,149	93%	$1,360	18%	321
AZ	Tax-Credit Scholarship	Arizona – Lexie's Law for Disabled and Displaced Students Tax Credit Scholarship Program	936	<1%	133,456	11%	$4,696	62%	148
DC	Voucher	District of Columbia – Opportunity Scholarship Program	1,154	7%	17,737	34%	$9,570	46%	47

Geographic Area	Programs	EdChoice Share	Other Private	District Share	Charter Share	Home Share
Indiana	3	4%	7%	83%	4%	3%
D.C.	1	2%	13%	40%	42%	2%
Georgia	2	<1%	6%	86%	3%	3%
North Carolina	3	<1%	6%	81%	5%	8%
Maryland	1	<1%	13%	82%	2%	3%
Minnesota	2	N.A.	12%	81%	5%	2%
New York	0	-	13%	80%	4%	3%
California	0	-	8%	81%	9%	2%
New Jersey	0	-	12%	82%	3%	3%
Texas	0	-	5%	87%	6%	3%

Thank You!

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