

2021: The Year of Educational Choice

JASON BEDRICK

Director of Policy



The Year of School Choice

July 5, 2011

No fewer than 13 states have passed major education reforms.

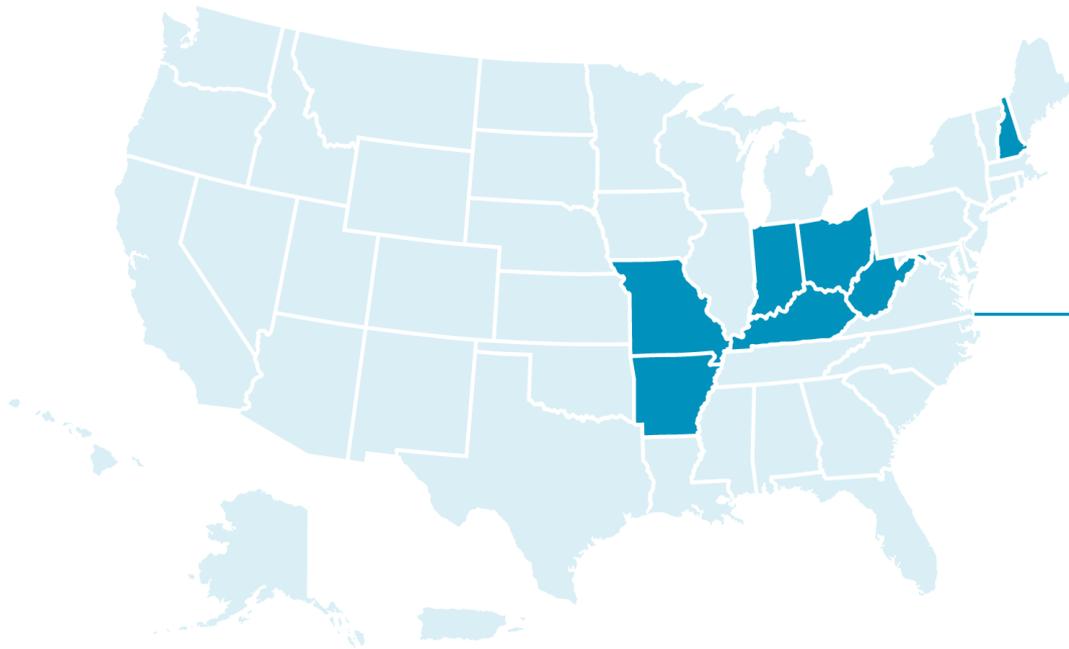




How 2021 could be the 'Year of Educational Choice'

by Michael Q. McShane & Jason Bedrick | April 01, 2021 12:00 AM

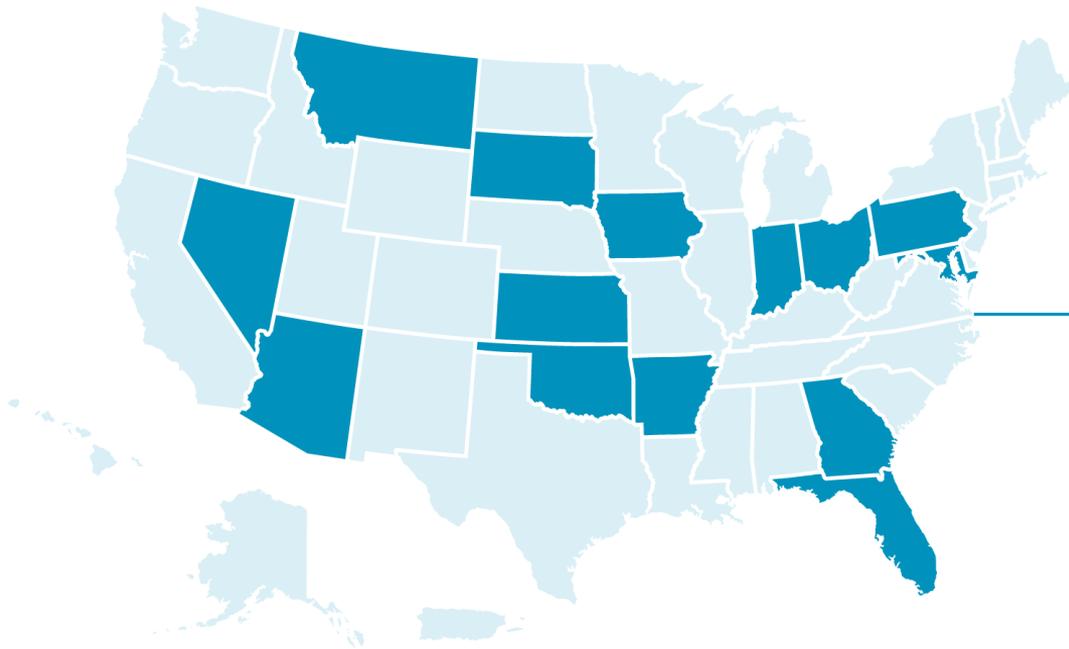
National *Eligibility for New Programs*



3,567,800
Total Eligible

350,020
Max Participation

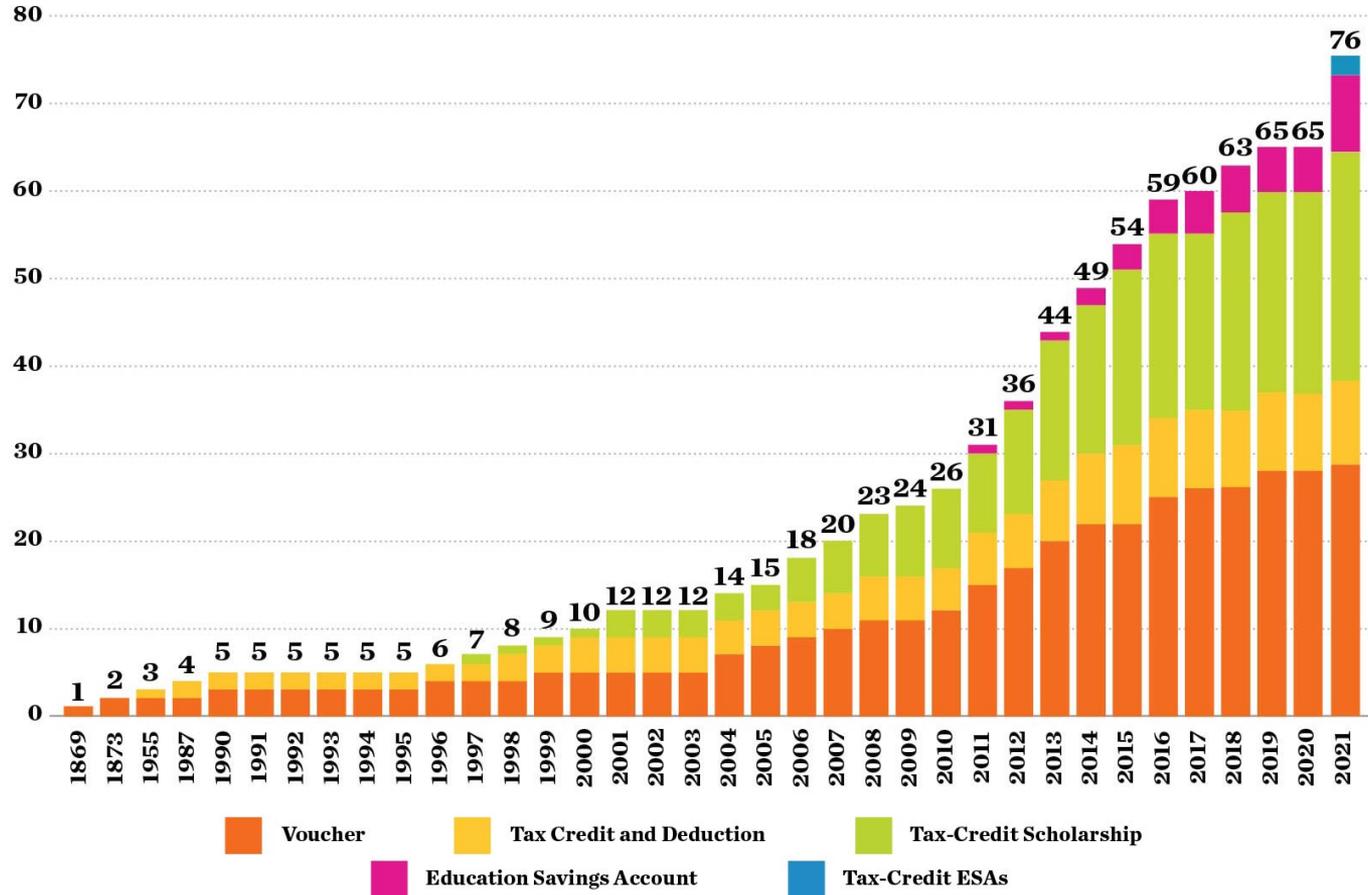
National *Eligibility for Expanded Programs*



878,300
Newly Eligible

1,246,230
Total Increase in
Max Participation

Number of Currently Enacted Private School Choice Programs by Year Launched



There are currently
76 private school choice programs
and policies operating
in
32 states, Washington, D.C.,
and Puerto Rico
with more than
1,355,152 families
participating
across the country.

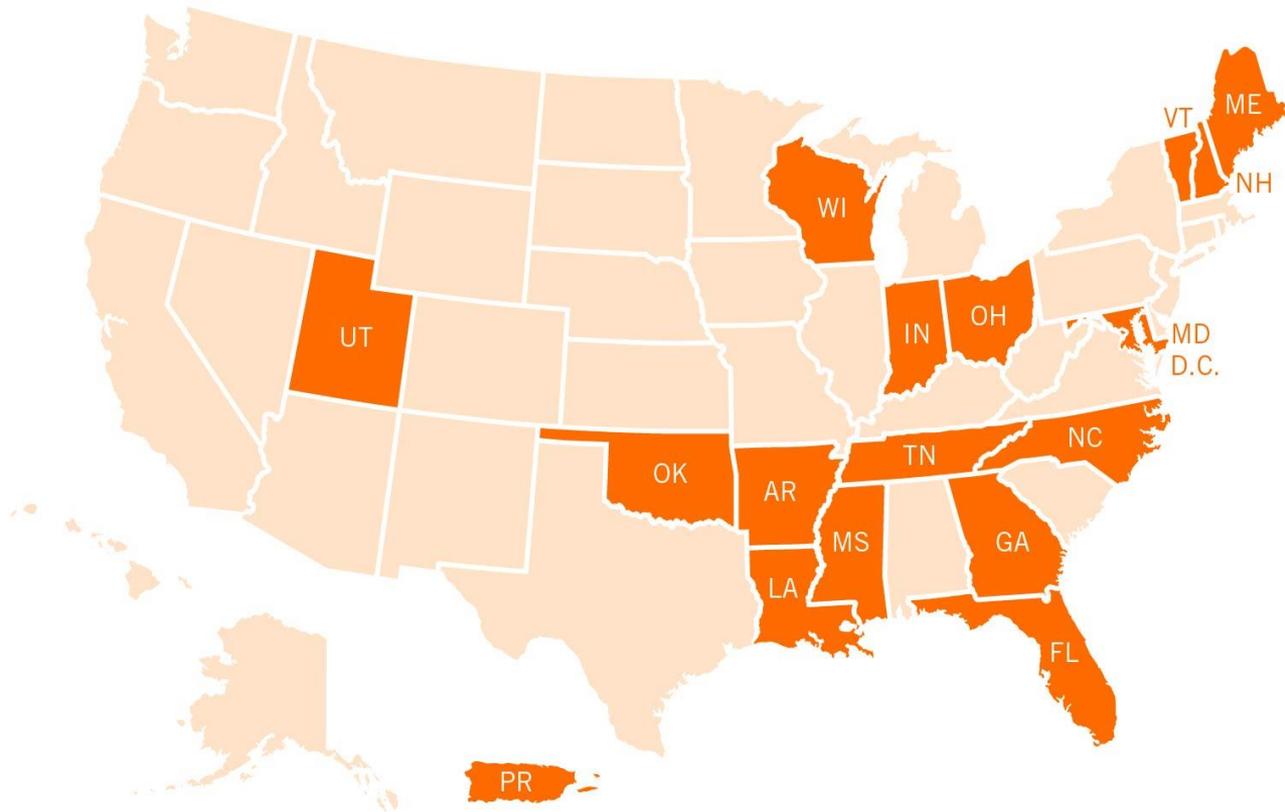


SCHOOL VOUCHERS

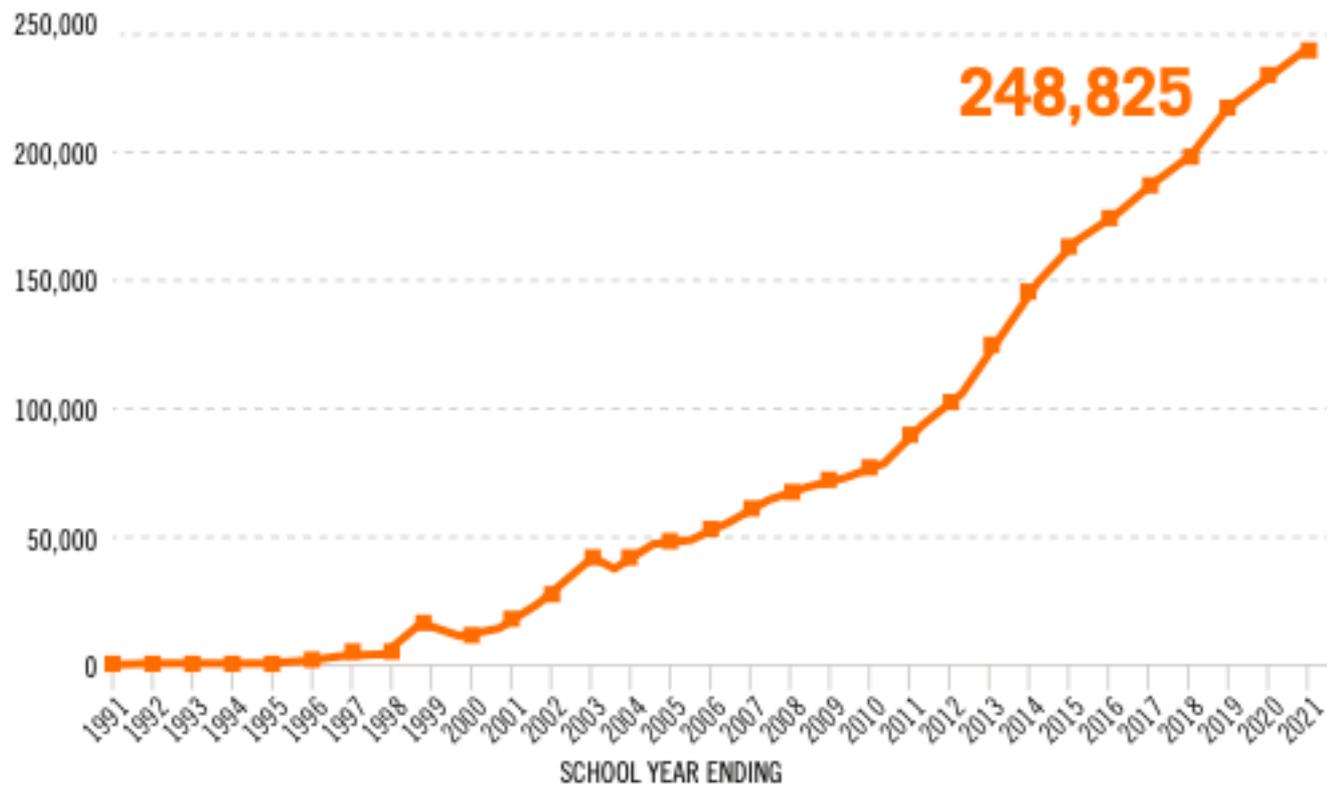
SCHOOL VOUCHERS

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.

16 STATES, D.C. AND PUERTO RICO
HAVE SCHOOL VOUCHERS
248,825 STUDENTS USE VOUCHERS NATIONWIDE



NUMBER OF STUDENTS USING VOUCHERS



OPINION | REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Hoosiers Lead the Voucher Way

Indiana passes a major expansion of school choice.

By [The Editorial Board](#)

April 22, 2021 6:59 pm ET

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OPINION | REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Florida's School Voucher Expansion

The Legislature increases eligibility to tens of thousands more students.

By [The Editorial Board](#)

April 27, 2021 6:41 pm ET

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Indiana

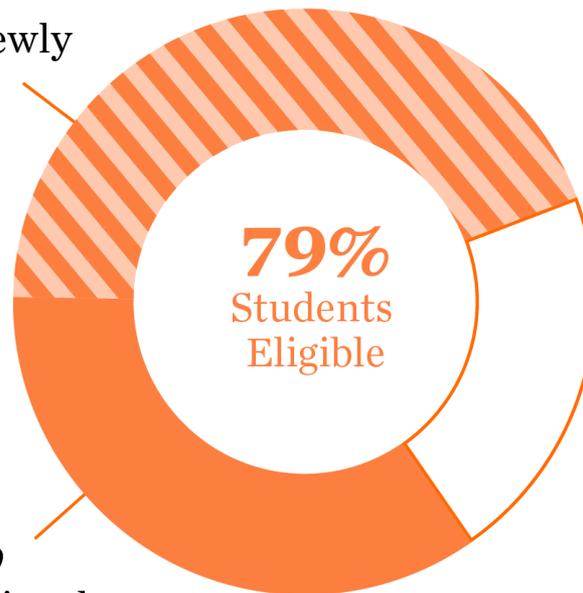
Choice Scholarship Program



966,200
Students Eligible
out of **1,226,113**

35%
Students Newly
Eligible

44%
Students Previously
Eligible



Indiana: Choice Scholarship Program – Expanded eligibility 300% FRL (555% FPL, about \$147K for a family of four).

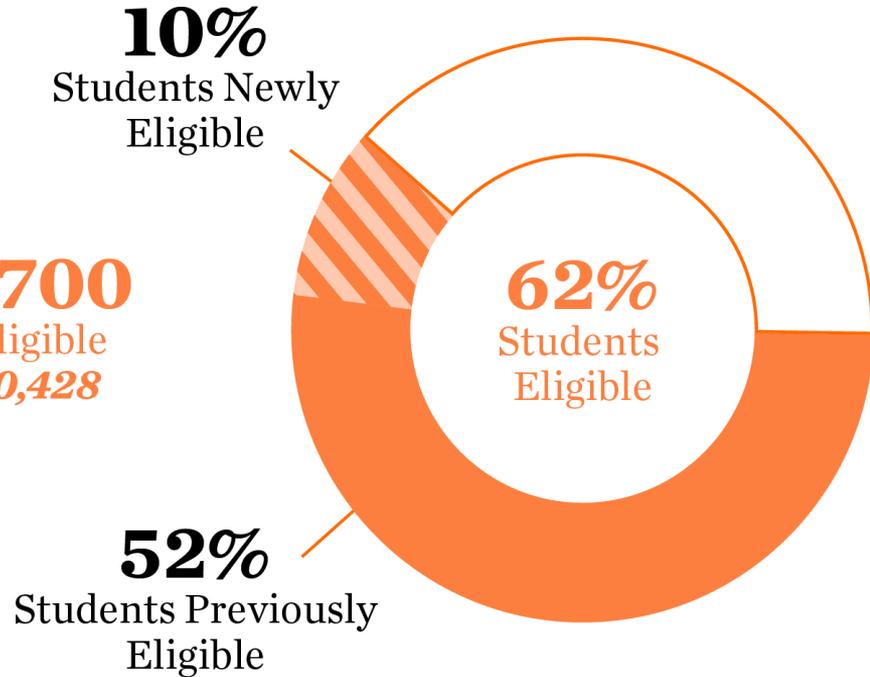
Florida

Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (Educational Options)



2,151,700
Students Eligible
out of **3,470,428**

Florida: Family Empowerment Scholarship Program – expanded eligibility 375% FPL (about \$99K for a family of four), removed “prior public” requirement.



2021: Additional School Voucher Expansions

Expanded Eligibility

- **Arkansas: Succeed Scholarship Program** – expanded eligibility to children from military families
- **Georgia: Special Needs Scholarship Program** – expanded student eligibility and expanded the allowable categories of expenditures beyond private school tuition to include tutoring, uniforms, transportation, meals, summer school programs, and physical, speech and occupational therapy.
- **Ohio:**
 - **EdChoice Scholarship Program** – expanded eligibility (foster/kinship care), removed “prior public” requirement

2021: Additional School Voucher Expansions

Increased Funding

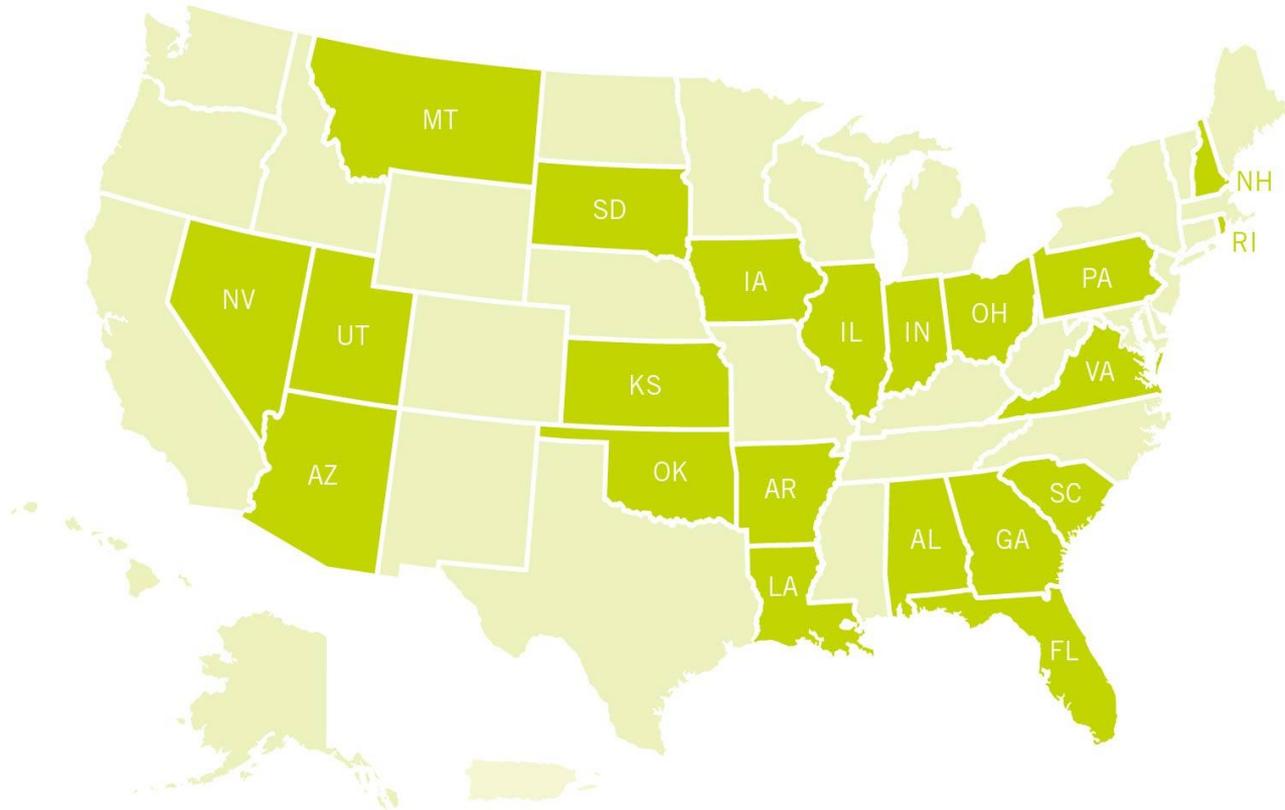
- **Maryland: Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program** – fully funded the vouchers at \$10 million for the first time in the program’s history.
- **Ohio:**
 - **EdChoice Scholarship Program** –increased scholarship values
 - **Cleveland Scholarship Program** – increased scholarship values
 - **Income-Based Scholarship Program** – increased scholarship values
 - **Autism Scholarship Program** – increased scholarship values

TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

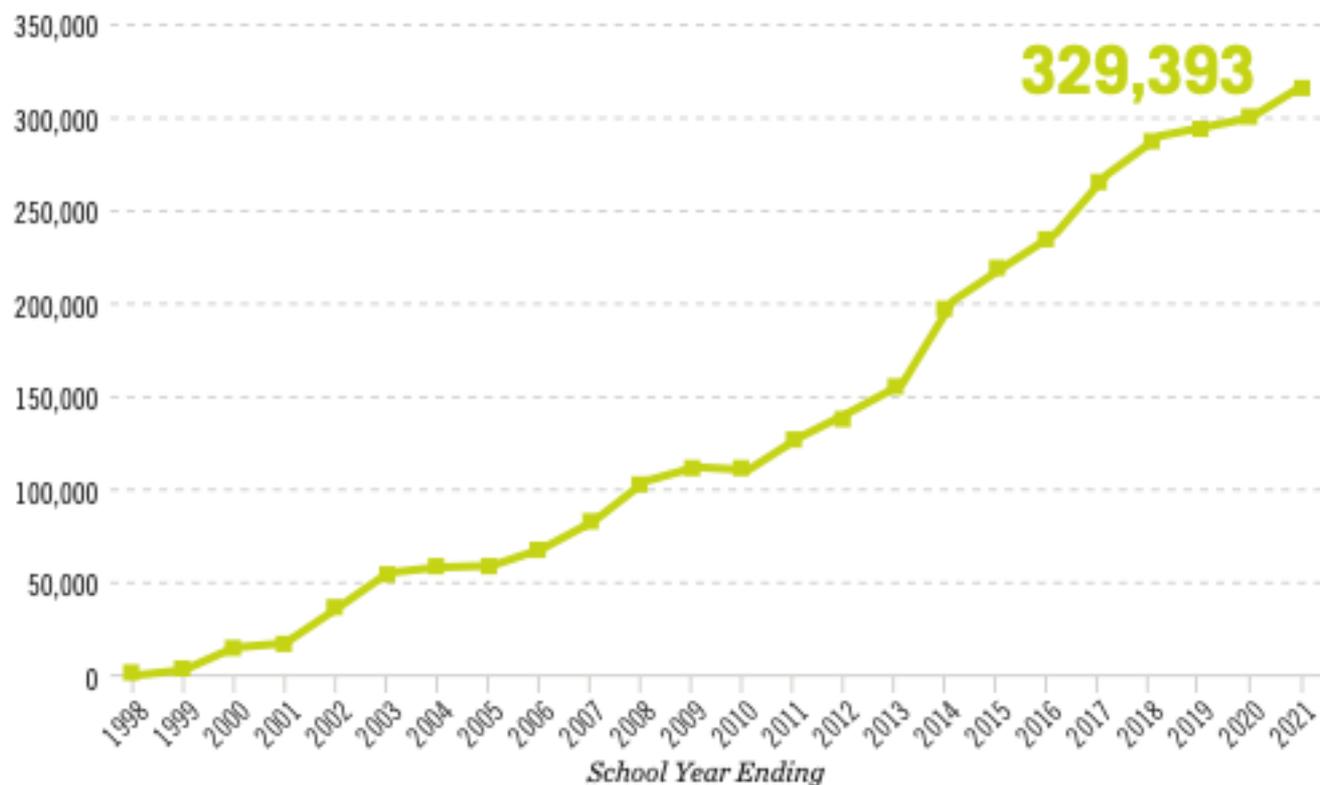
TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

21 STATES HAVE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
329,393 STUDENTS USE SCHOLARSHIPS NATIONWIDE



NUMBER OF TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

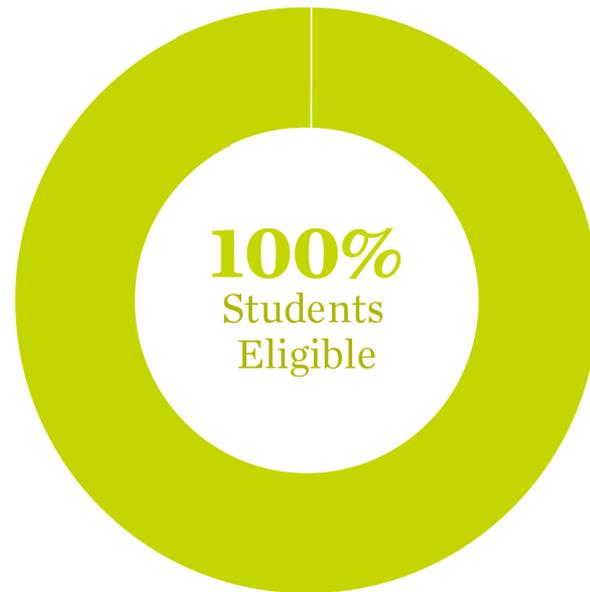


Ohio

Tax-Credit Scholarship



1,940,855
Students Eligible
out of **1,940,855**



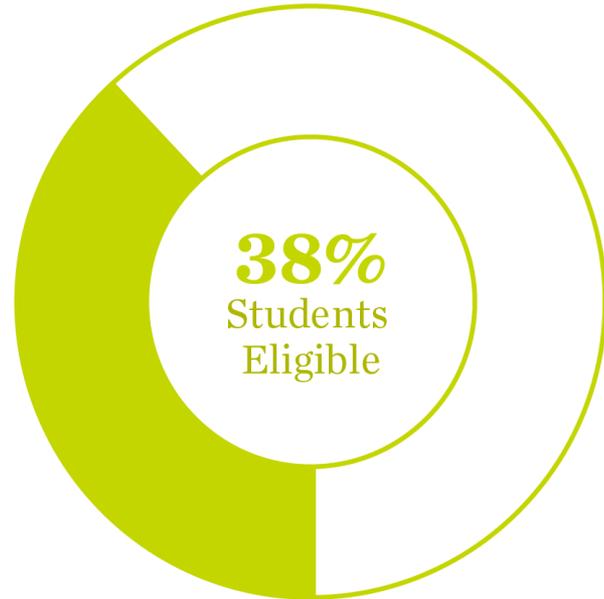
Ohio: New tax-credit scholarship program for all students (priority for low-income).

Arkansas

Philanthropic Investment in Arkansas Kids Scholarship Program



209,500
Students Eligible
out of **547,570**



Arkansas: New policy for low-income families (up to 200% of the federal poverty line, \$53K for a family of four).

Indiana

School Scholarship Tax Credit



966,200
Students Eligible
out of **1,226,113**

19%
Students Newly
Eligible

60%
Students Previously
Eligible



Indiana: Increased tax credits from \$16.5M to \$17.5M and \$18.5M over next biennium; expanded eligibility 300% FRL (555% FPL, about \$147K for a family of four).

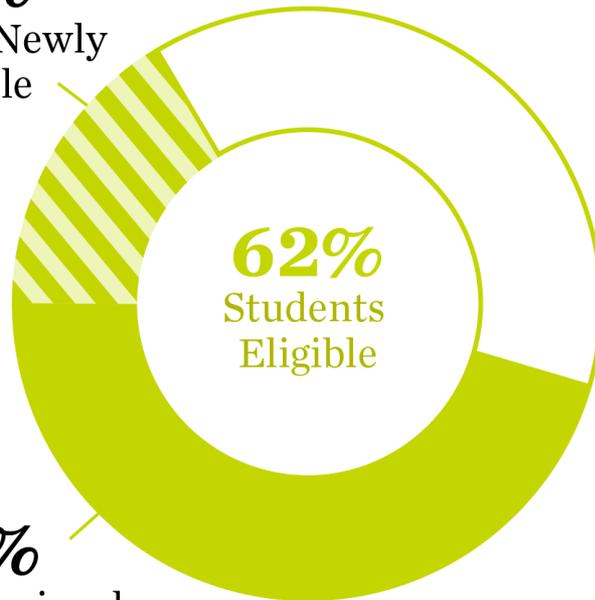
Florida

Tax-Credit Scholarship



2,151,700
Students Eligible
out of **3,470,428**

16%
Students Newly
Eligible



46%
Students Previously
Eligible

Florida: Expanded eligibility to 375% FPL (about \$99K for a family of four).

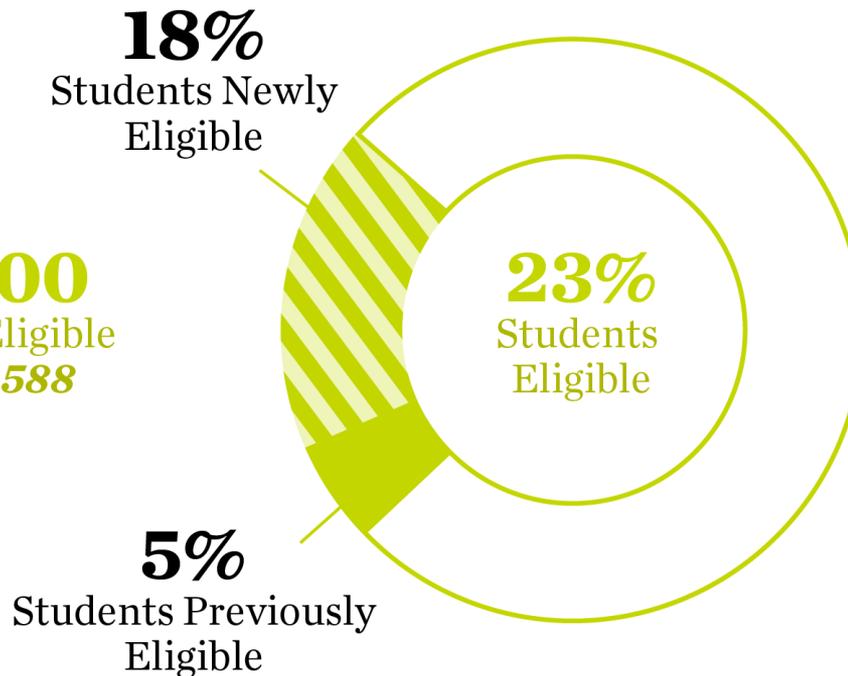
Kansas

Low Income Students Scholarship



133,300
Students Eligible
out of **574,588**

Kansas: Expanded eligibility to include students in grades K-8 from low-income families without any restrictions based on the school to which they are assigned. Raised income eligibility threshold raised to 185 percent of FPL.



2021: Additional Expanded Tax-Credit Scholarships

Expanded Eligibility

- **South Dakota:** Eliminated the “prior public” requirement for eligibility.

2021: Additional Expanded Tax-Credit Scholarships

Increased Funding

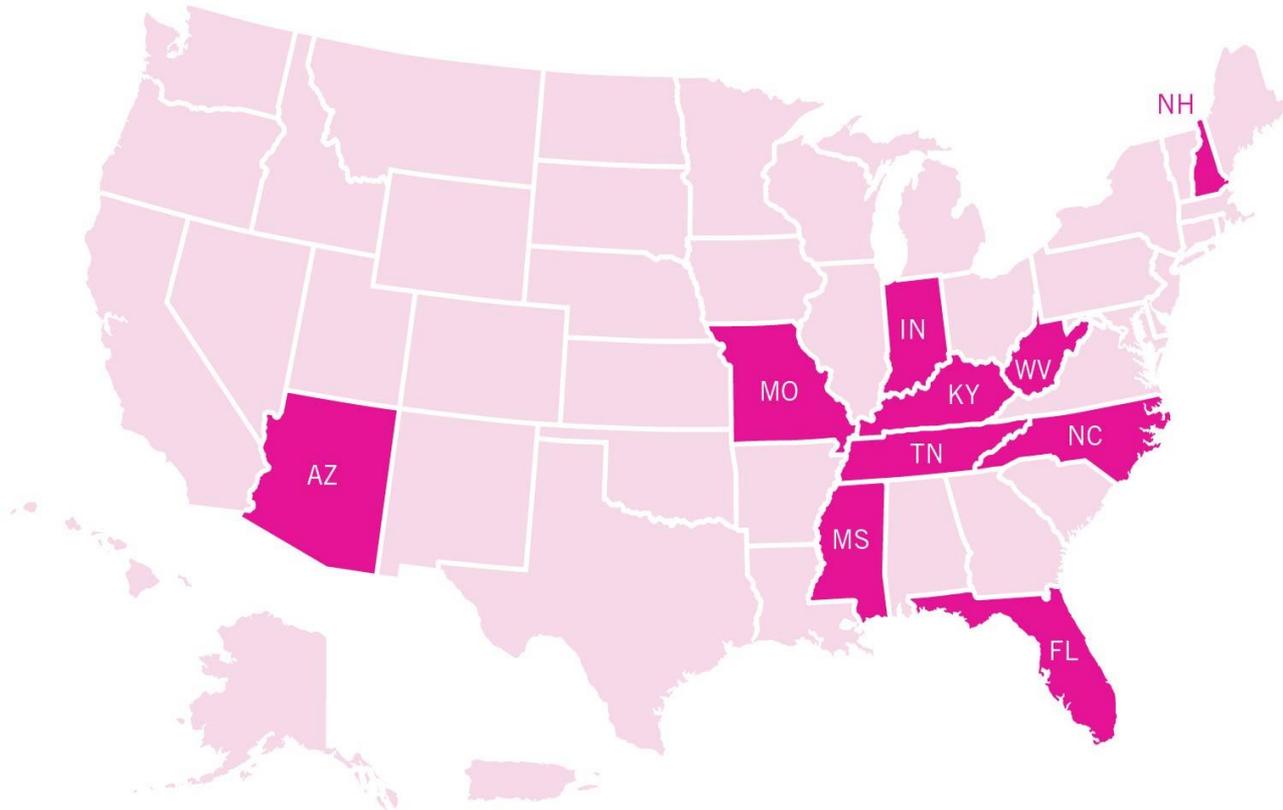
- **Arizona:** Increased available tax credits for special-needs scholarships by \$1 million.
- **Iowa:** Increased available tax credits from \$15 million to \$20 million and raised the credit value from 65 percent to 75 percent.
- **Montana:** Increased per-donor cap from \$150 to \$200,000; increases total tax credit escalator from 10% to 20%; increases maximum scholarship size from 50% to 100% of statewide average K-12 per-pupil funding.
- **Oklahoma:** Raised the total amount of tax credits from \$3.5 million to \$25 million.
- **Pennsylvania:** Raised the total amount of tax credits by \$40 million.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

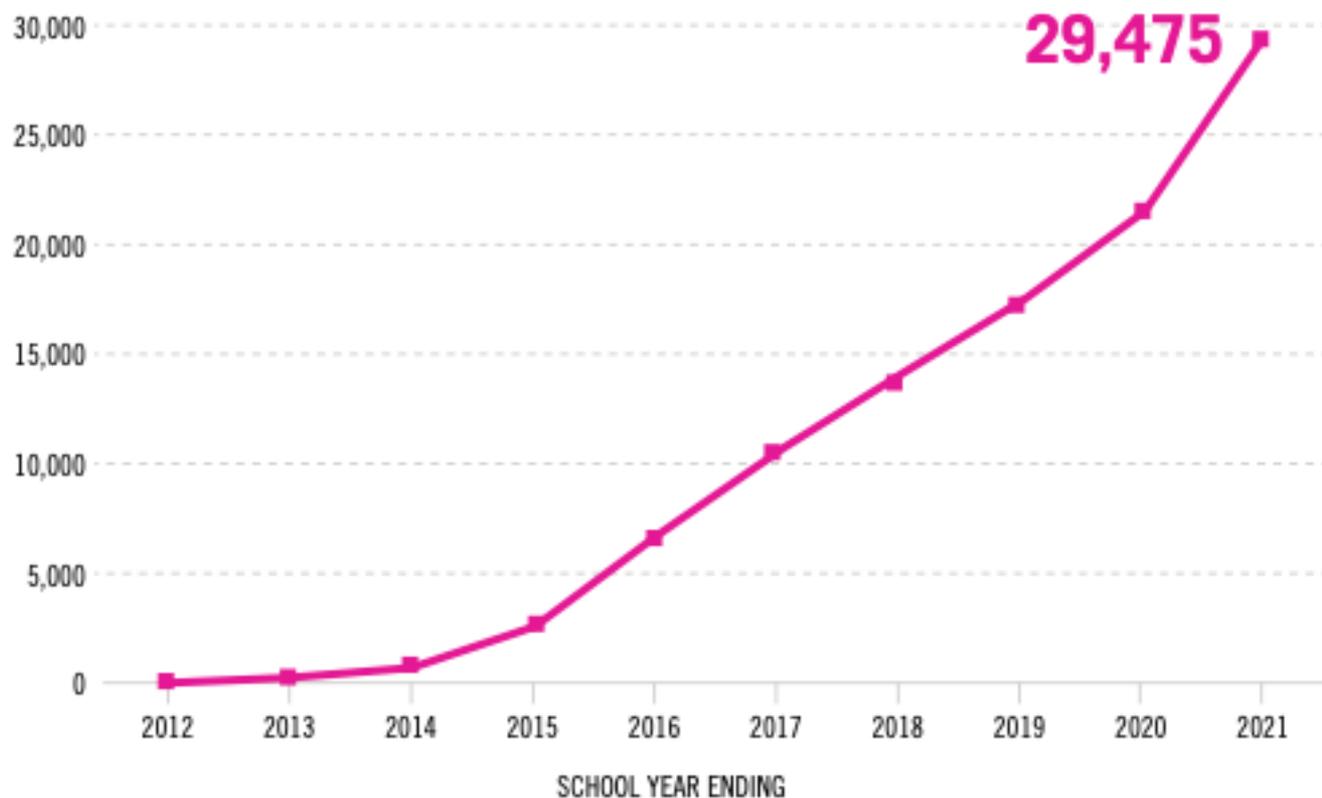
EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

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 or online payment system—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 even allow students to use their funds to pay for a combination of public school courses and private services.

10 STATES HAVE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
29,475 STUDENTS USE ESAs NATIONWIDE



NUMBER OF STUDENTS USING ESAS



West Virginia and Kentucky Lead 2021's Educational Choice Wave | Opinion

JASON BEDRICK AND MICHAEL Q. MCSHANE, EDCHOICE

ON 4/20/21 AT 7:30 AM EDT



West Virginia and Kentucky Now Lead the Way in School Choice

Union strongholds and racked by the 'Red for Ed' movement in 2018 and 2019, West Virginia and Kentucky have since passed some of the broadest school choice legislation in the country's history.

By [Andrew Vandiver](#) and [Garrett Ballengee](#) | April 16, 2021, at 3:06 p.m.

OPINION | REVIEW & OUTLOOK

School Choice Advances in the States

The union shutdowns have increased support across the country for more educational options.

By [The Editorial Board](#)

Updated March 29, 2021 9:58 pm ET



School Choice Expands In West Virginia With The Stroke Of A Governor's Pen And In Kentucky With An Override Of A Governor's Veto



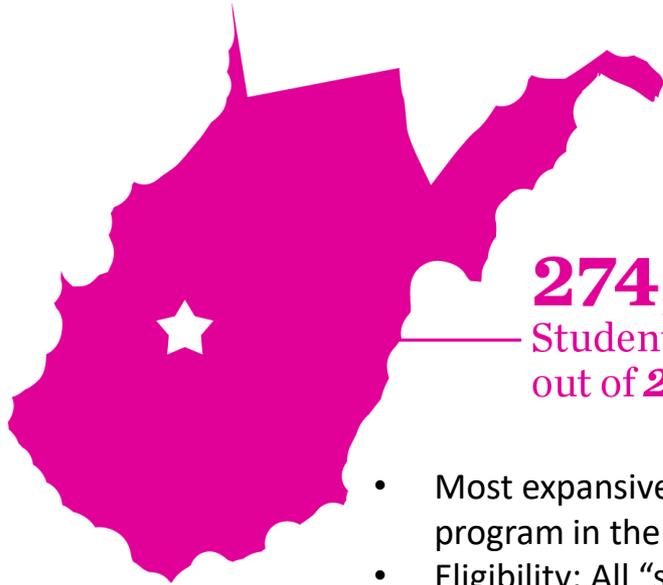
Patrick Gleason Contributor

Policy

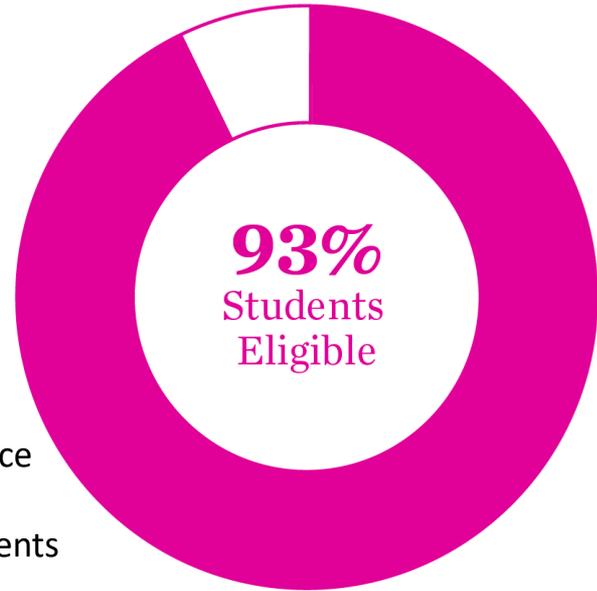
I cover the intersection of state & federal policy and politics.

West Virginia

Hope Scholarship Program



274,561
Students Eligible
out of **295,042**



- Most expansive educational choice program in the nation
- Eligibility: All “switchers” or students entering kindergarten
- ESA value: about \$4,600
- Funding: Formula funded (all eligible students funded)

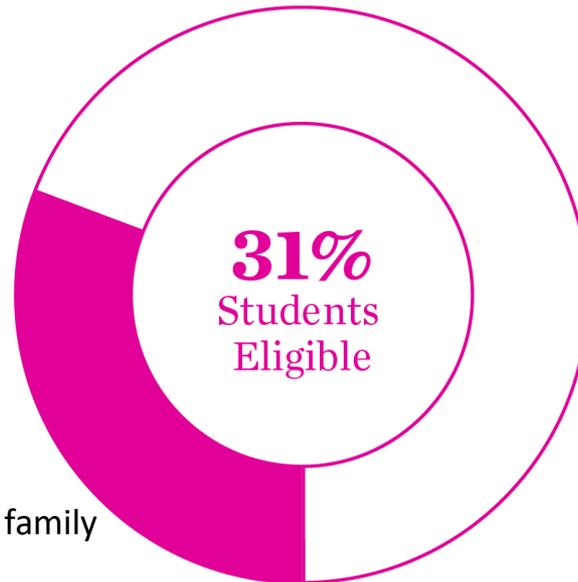
New Hampshire

Education Freedom Accounts



65,300
Students Eligible
out of **210,588**

- Eligibility: 300% FPL (\$80K for a family of four)
- ESA value: 100% of state portion (\$3,800 to \$8,400 / avg. about \$4,600)
- Funding: Formula funded (all eligible students funded)



Indiana

Education Savings Accounts



154,500
Students Eligible
out of **1,226,113**

- Eligibility: special needs plus 300% FRL / 555% FPL (\$147K for a family of four)
- ESA value: 90% of state portion (about \$4,500)
- Funding: \$10 million total

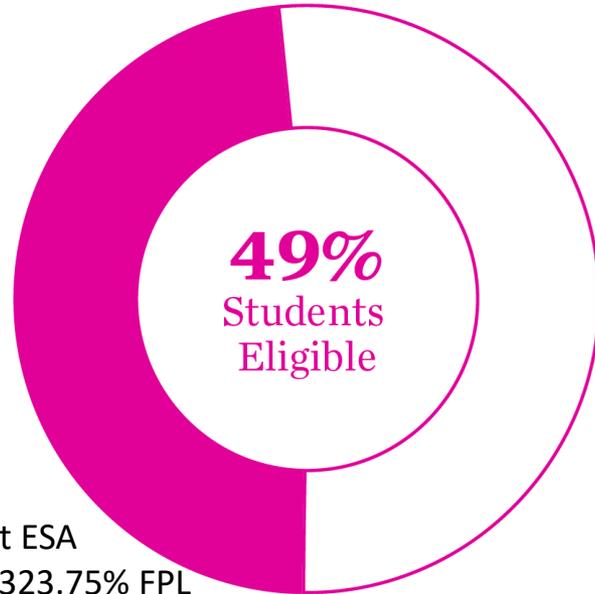


Kentucky *Education Opportunity Account Program*



381,094
Students Eligible
out of **780,930**

- Nation's first tax-credit ESA
- Eligibility: 175% FRL / 323.75% FPL (about \$86K for a family of four)
- ESA value: about \$4,600
- Funding: \$25 million in tax credits



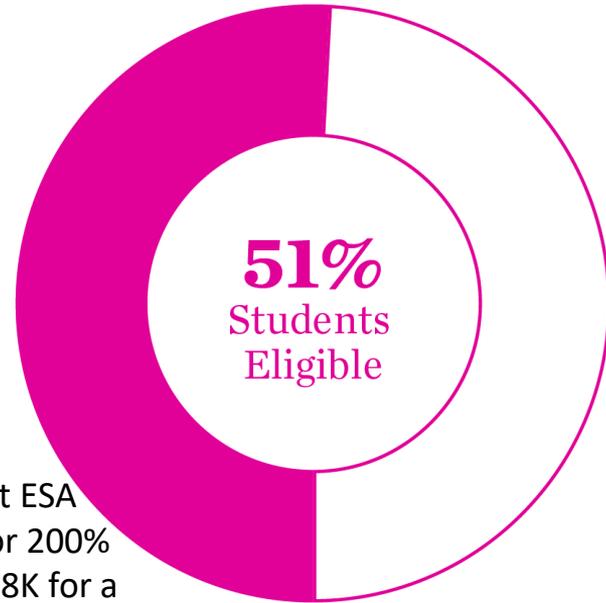
Missouri

Empowerment Scholarship Accounts



541,900
Students Eligible
out of **1,069,591**

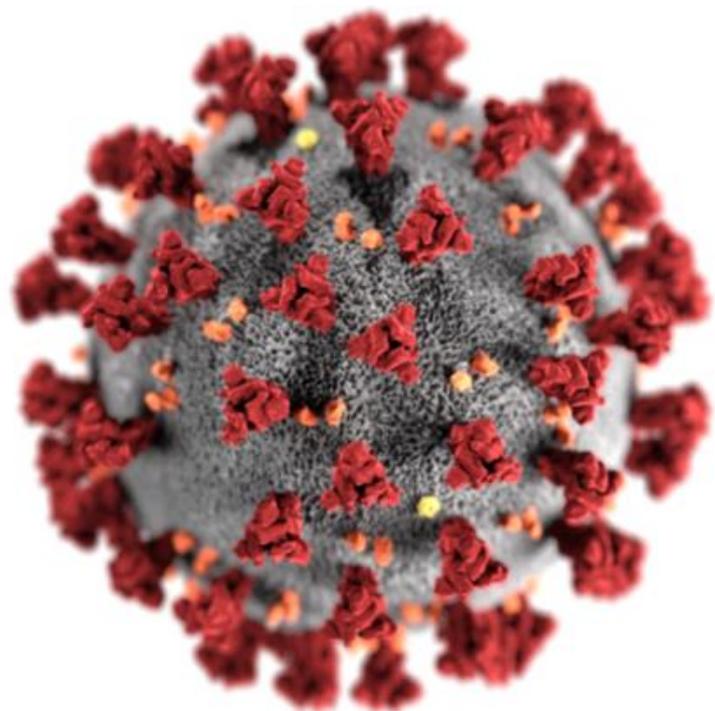
- Nation's second tax-credit ESA
- Eligibility: special needs or 200% FRL / 370% FPL (about \$98K for a family of four)
- ESA value: \$6,375
- Funding: \$50 million in tax credits

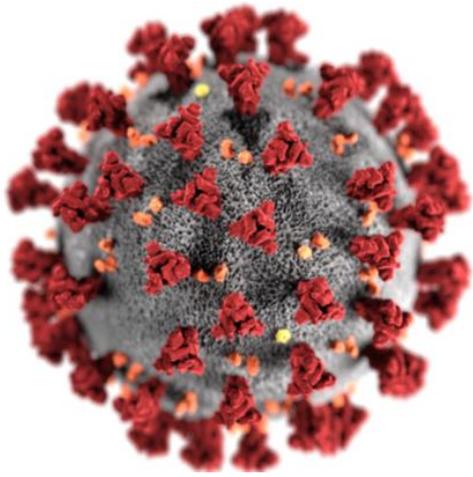


2021: Expanded Education Savings Accounts

- **Florida: Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (Unique Abilities)**
 - Combined Gardiner ESA and McKay voucher under the FES program (converts McKay vouchers into ESAs)
 - Eligibility: students with special needs
 - ESA value: depends on grade/location; about \$10,500 on average
 - Funding: Formula funded (all eligible students funded)

Why now?





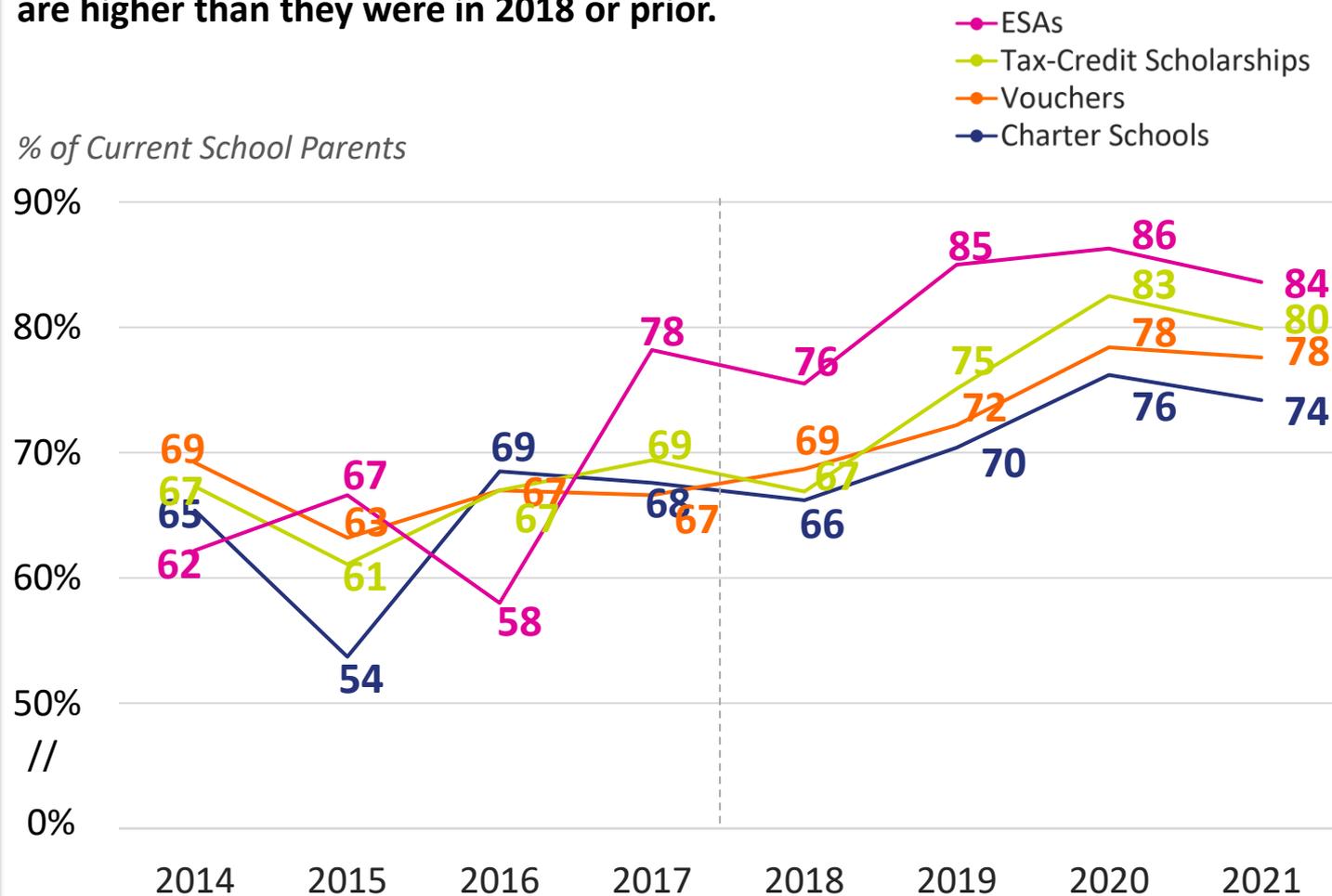
FAVORABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS

Notes: From 2013 to 2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an education savings account (ESA) program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021.

Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q16, Q18, Q20, and Q24; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020 (Wave 2)*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

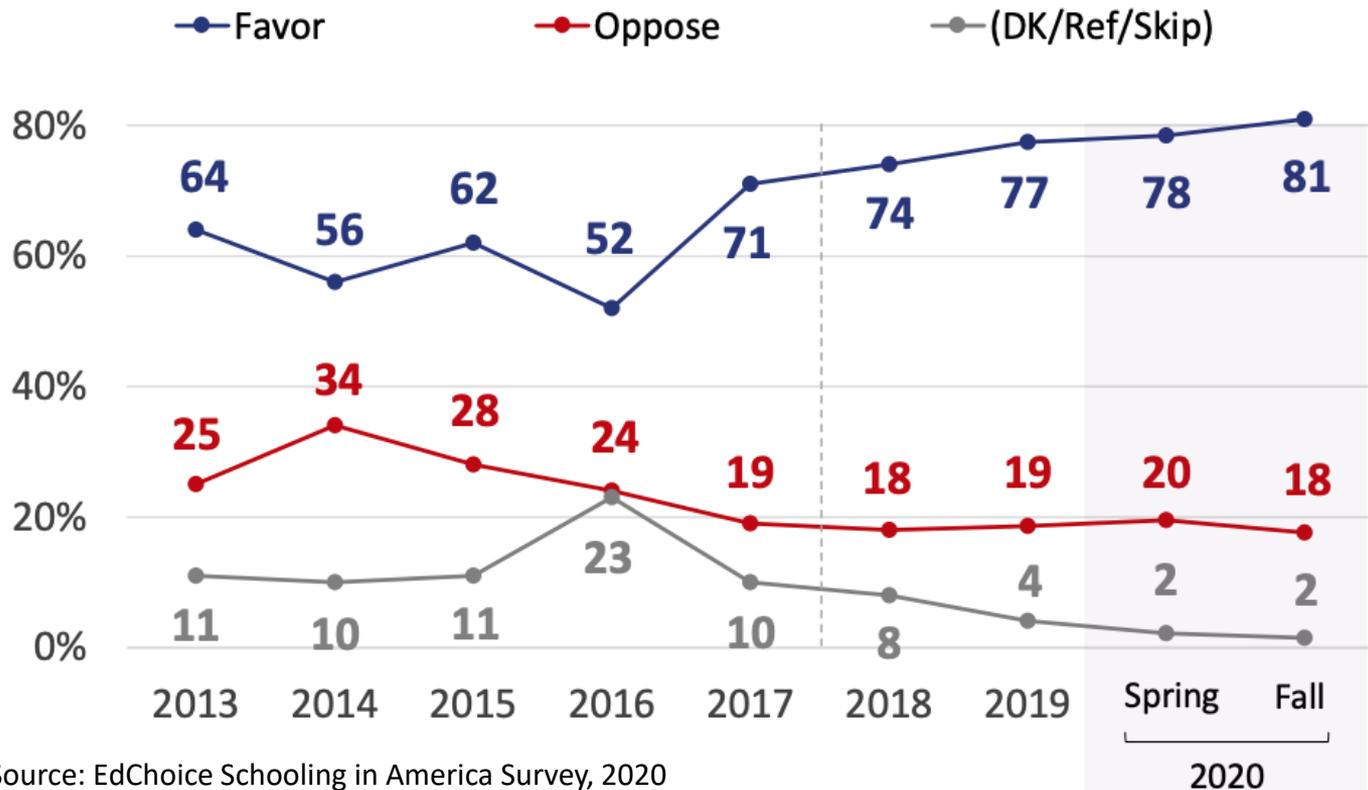
Parent levels of total support for different types of educational choice reforms are higher than they were in 2018 or prior.

% of Current School Parents



More than four out of five Americans support ESAs.

% of General Population



Source: EdChoice Schooling in America Survey, 2020

2020

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

Notes: From 2013 to 2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an ESA program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q19; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2019* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

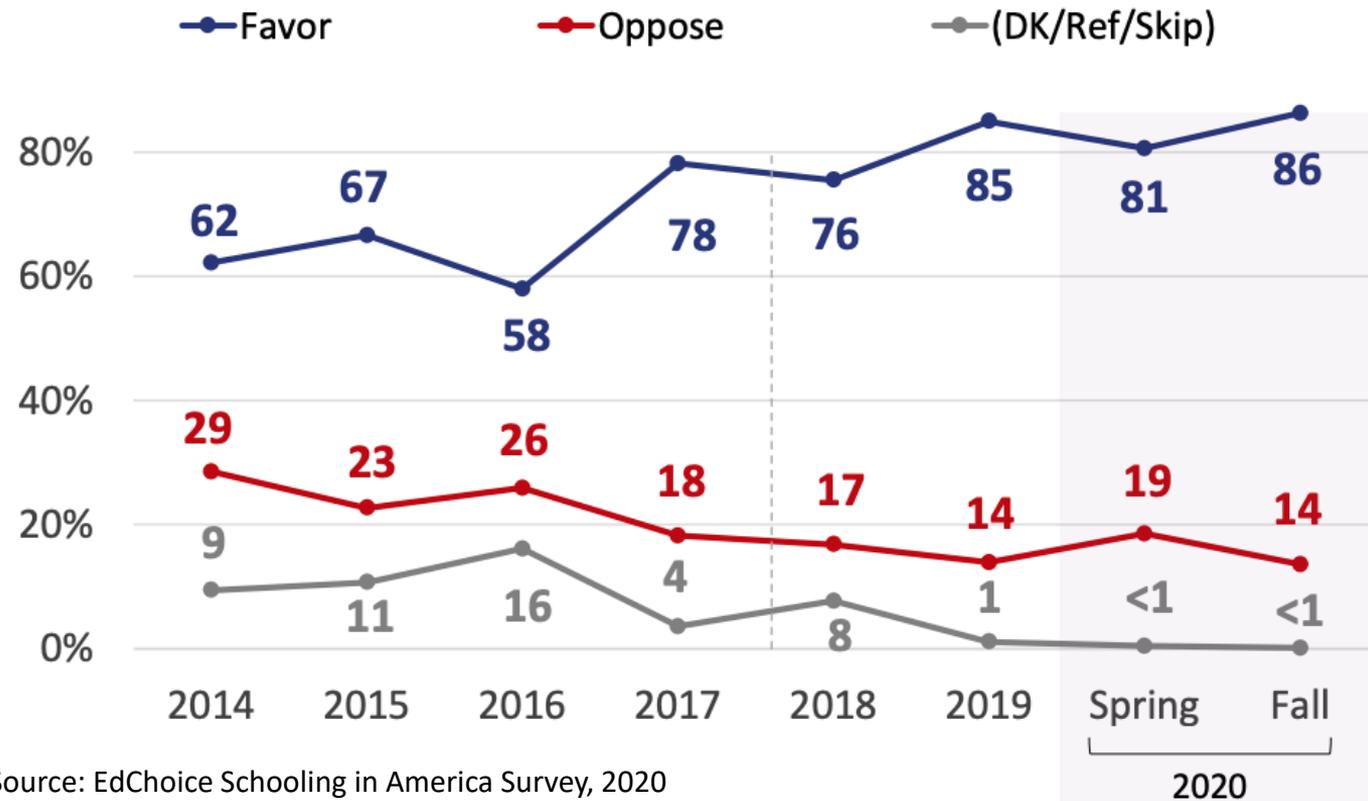
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EDCHOICE.ORG

Nearly nine out of 10 parents support ESAs.

% of Current School Parents



Source: EdChoice Schooling in America Survey, 2020

Thank You!

@EdChoice

@JasonBedrick