

What is School Choice?

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CHOICE Definition

School choice allows public education funds to follow students to the schools or services that best fit their needs—whether that's to a public school, private school, charter school, home school or any other learning environment parents choose for their kids.



WHAT IS
SCHOOL
CHOICE?

EDCHOICE'S ILLUSTRATION

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

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 learning 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.

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.

Tax-Credit Scholarships

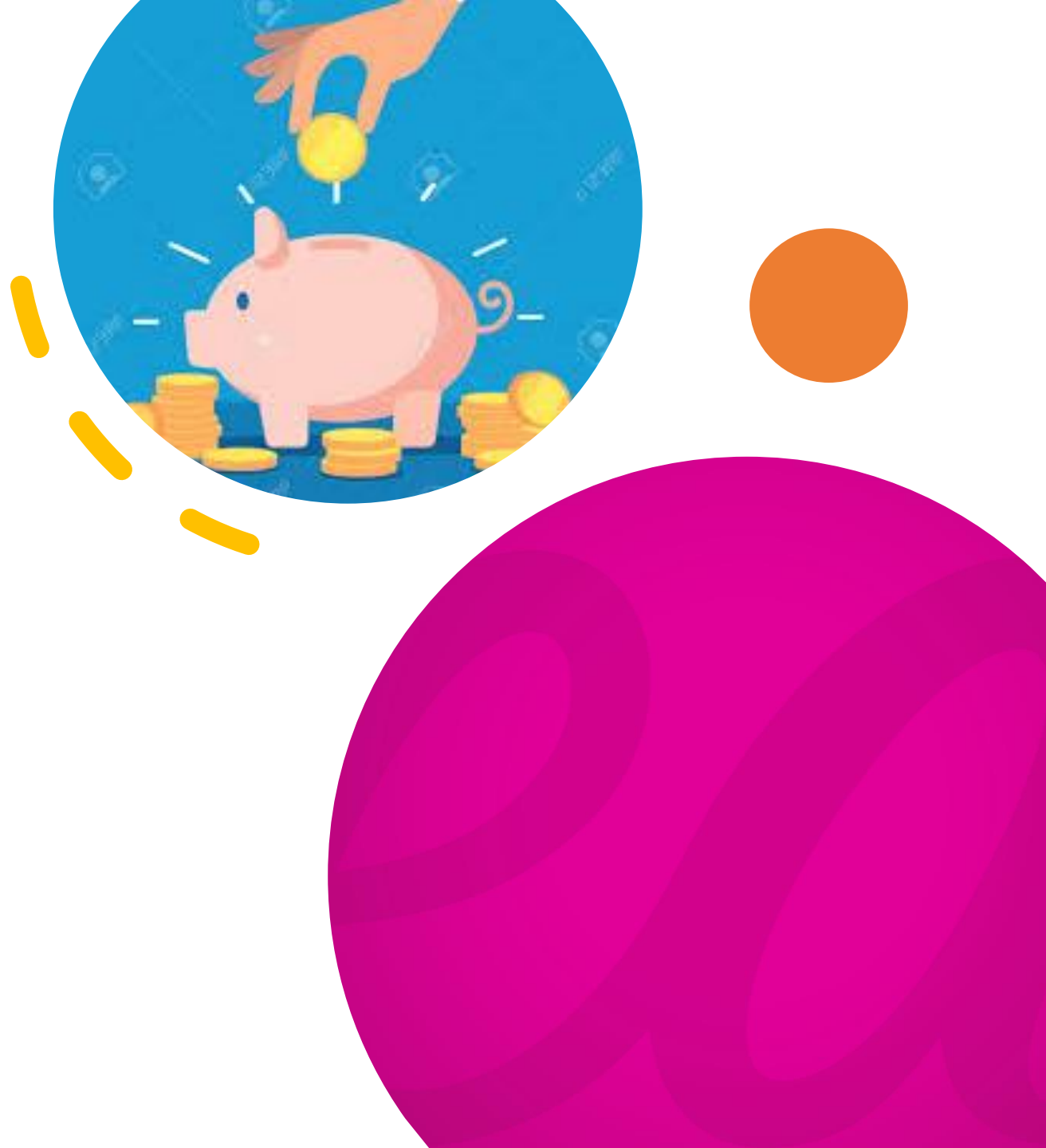
Tax-credit scholarships allow taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships. Eligible taxpayers can include both individuals and businesses. In some states, scholarship-giving nonprofits also provide innovation grants to public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

Individual Tax Credits & Deductions

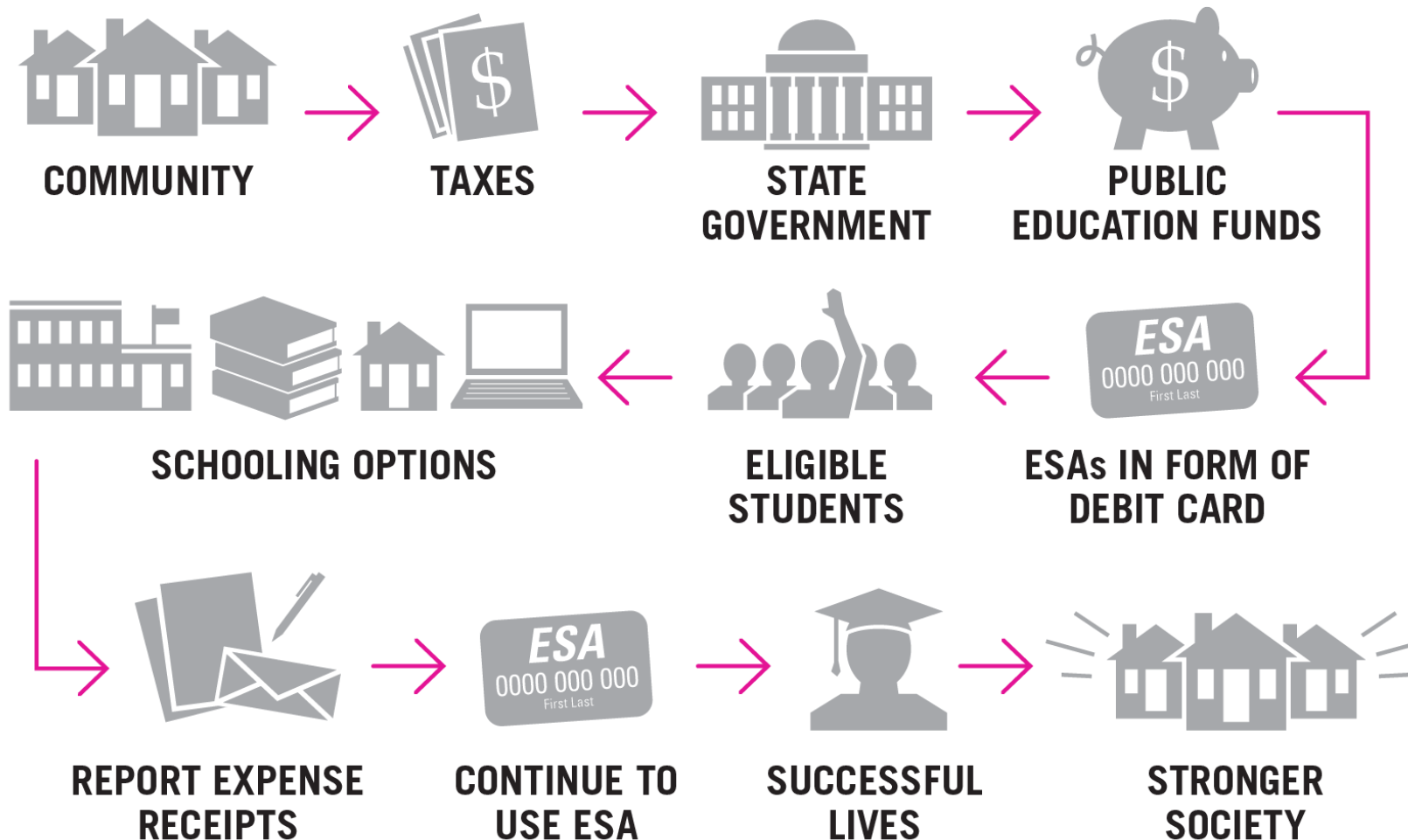
Individual tax credits and deductions allow parents to receive state income tax relief for approved educational expenses, which can include private school tuition, books, supplies, computers, tutors and transportation.

Education Savings Account (ESA)

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- 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 learning services and materials.

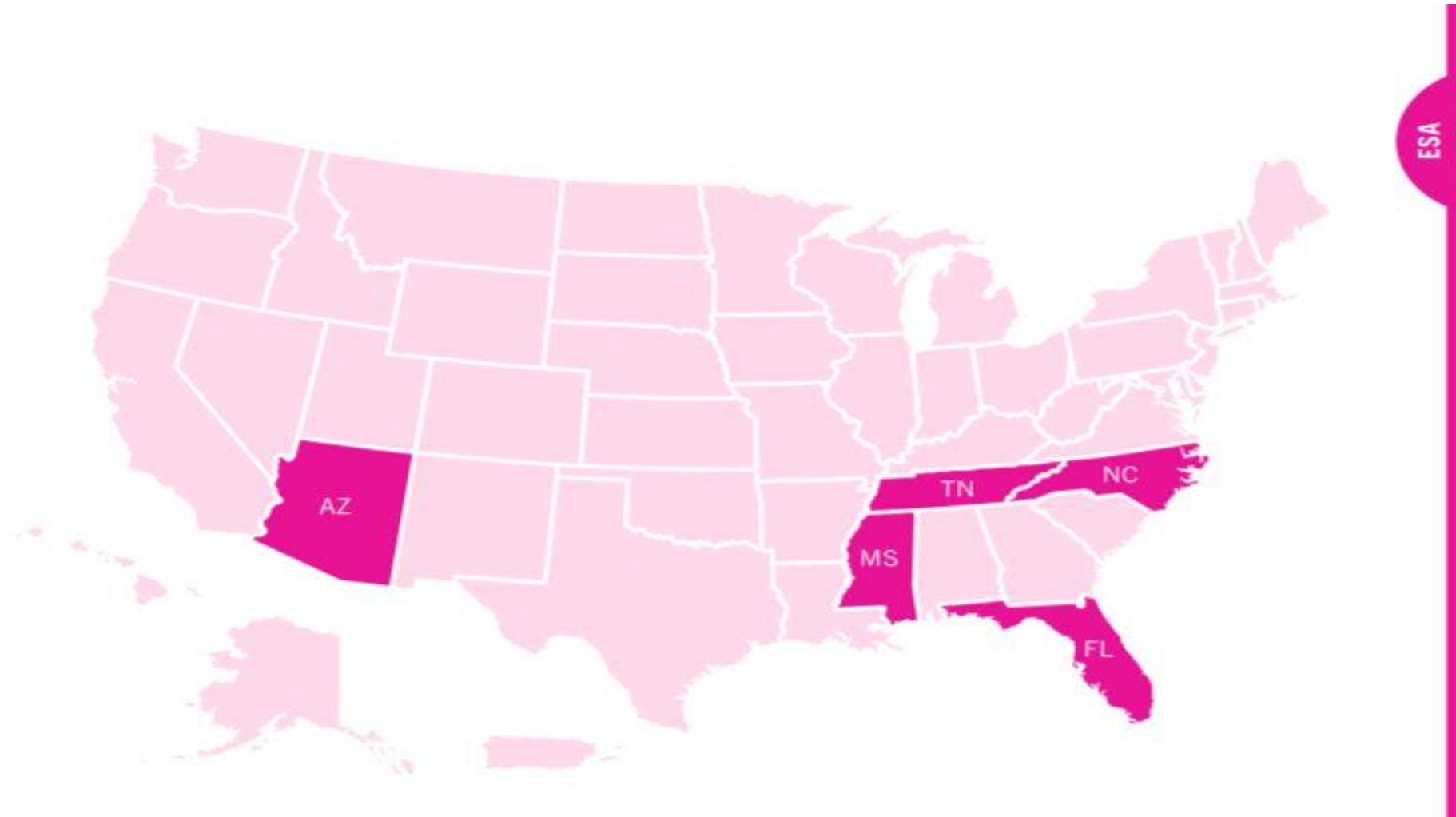


HOW ESAs WORK



5 STATES HAVE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

15,296 STUDENTS USE ESAs NATIONWIDE



EDCHOICE'S
ESA
EDUCATION
VIDEO

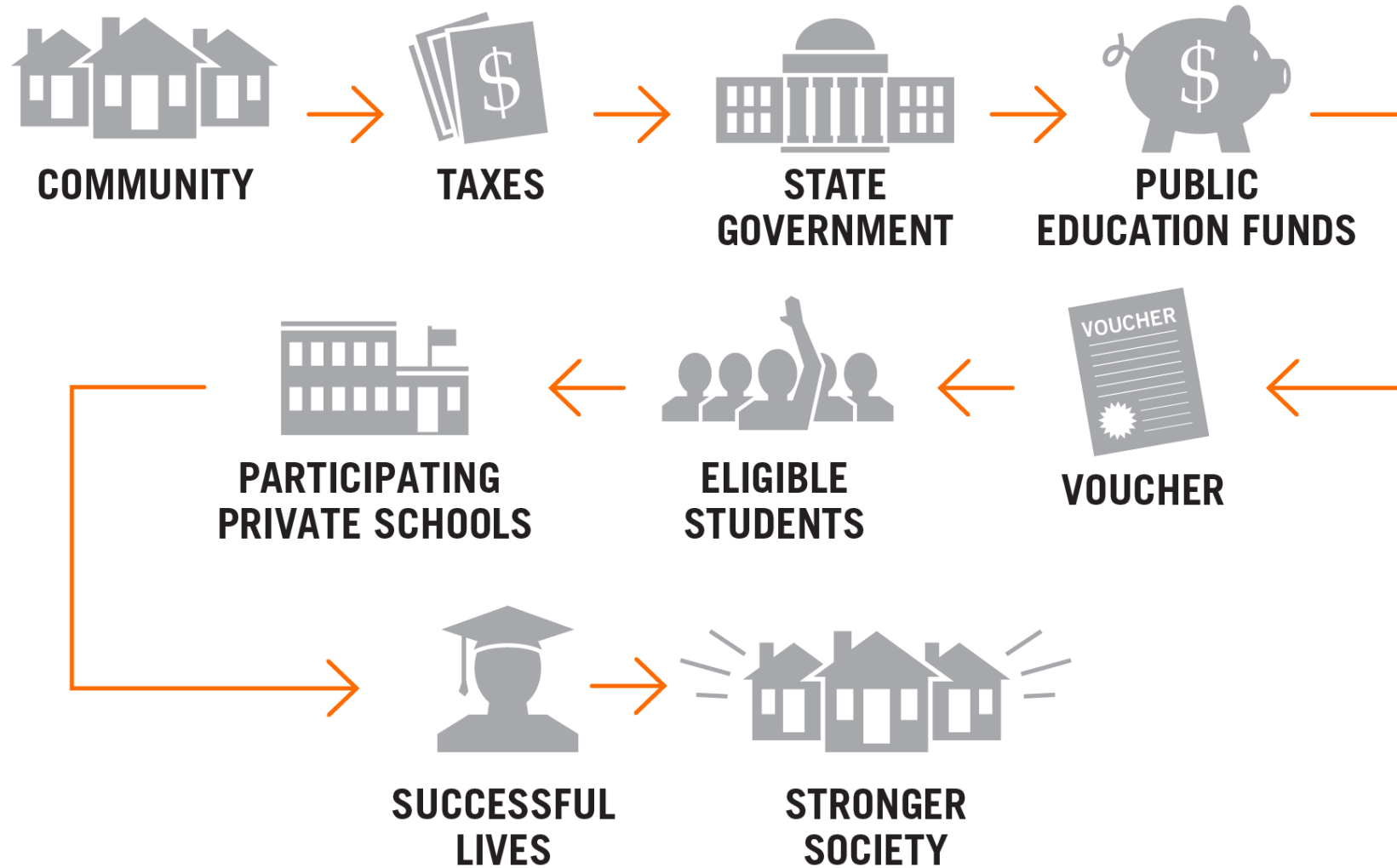
A rectangular sign with a thick black frame and a white border. The sign has a bright pink background with faint, overlapping circular patterns. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, arranged in four lines.

**WHAT IS AN
EDUCATION
SAVINGS ACCOUNT?**

School Vouchers

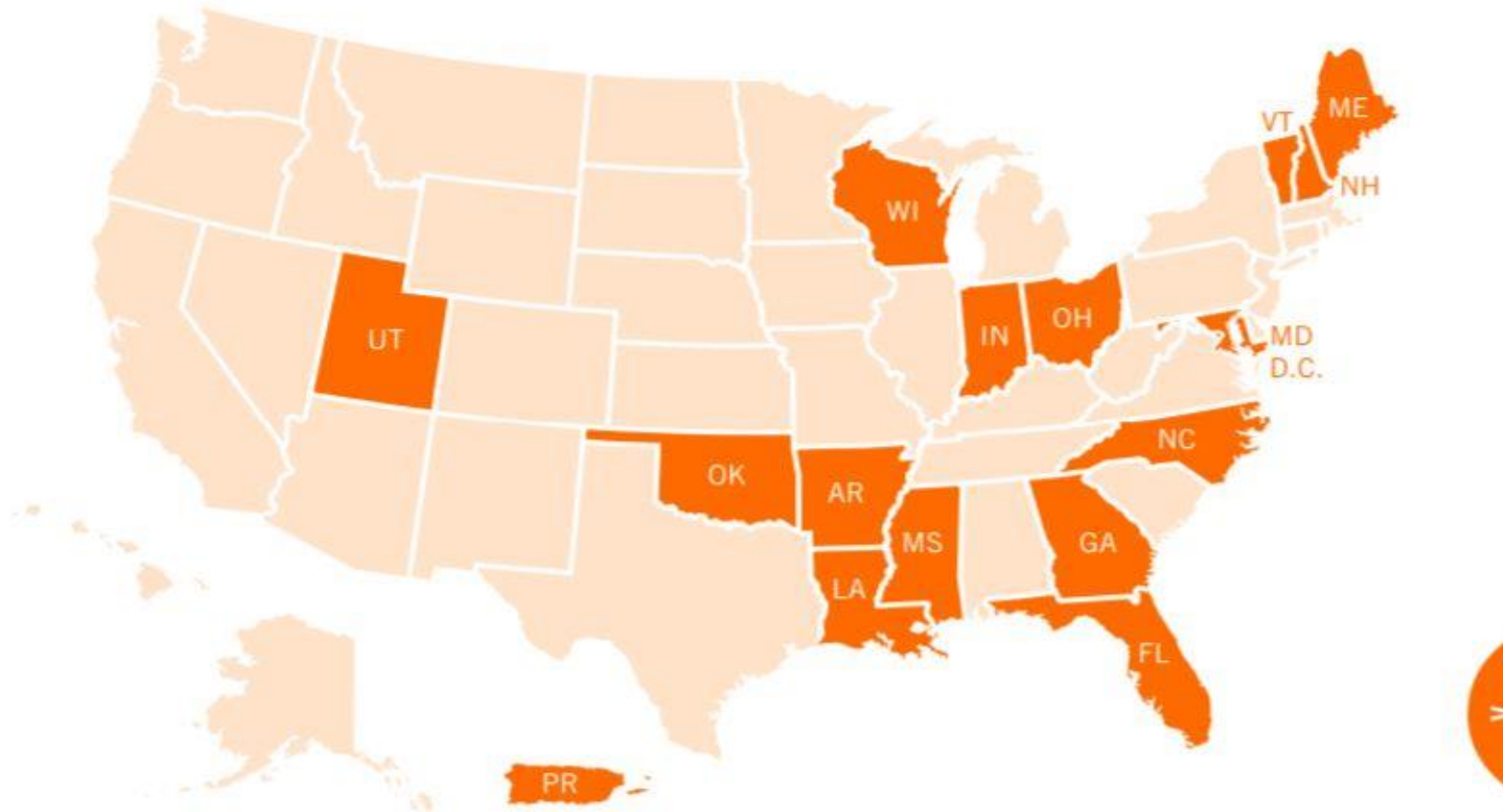
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HOW VOUCHERS WORK



16 STATES, D.C., AND PUERTO RICO HAVE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

≥197,939 STUDENTS USE VOUCHERS NATIONWIDE



WHAT ARE **SCHOOL** VOUCHERS?

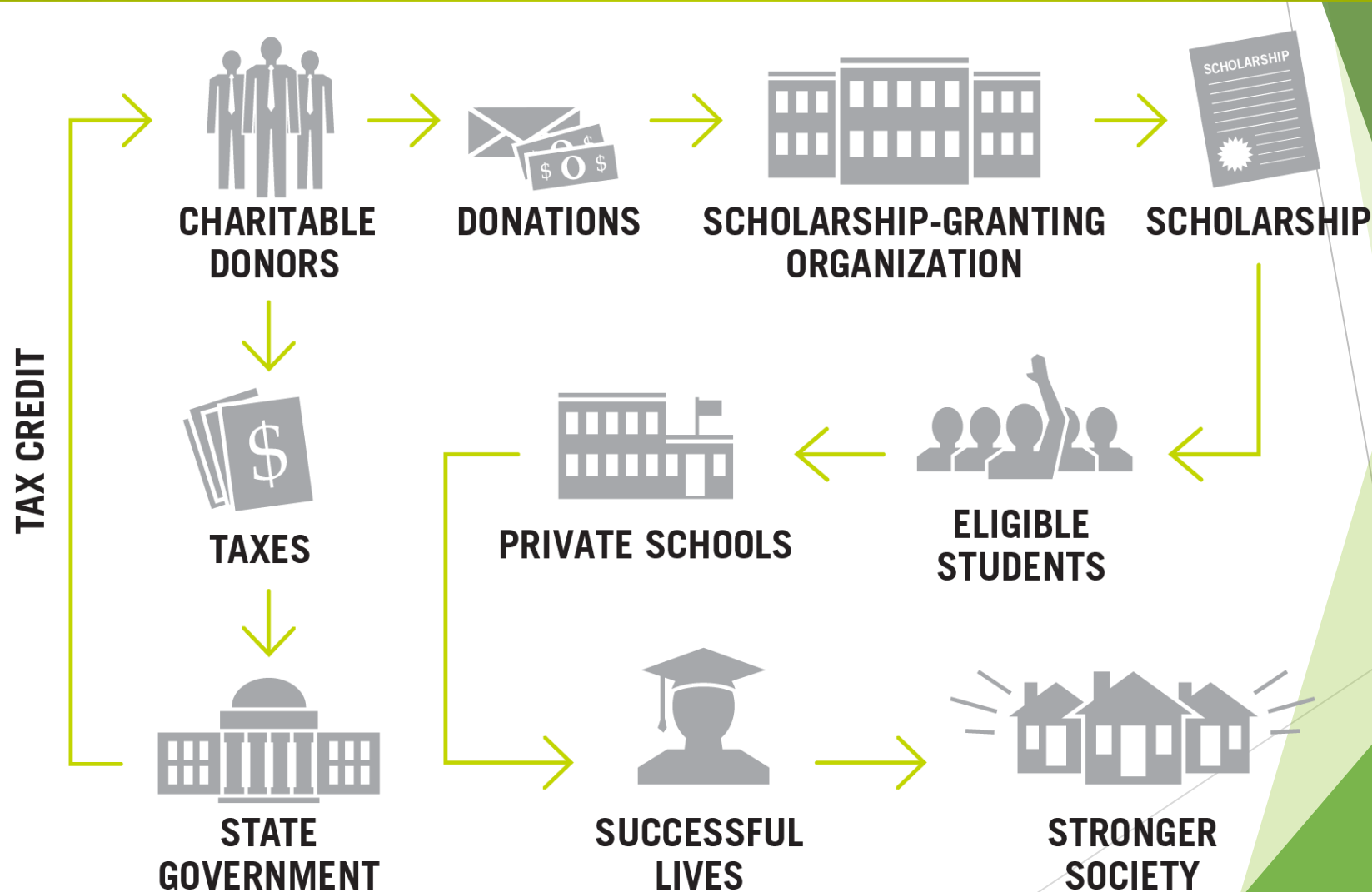
EdChoice's
School
Voucher
Explanation

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 choosing alternative public schools.

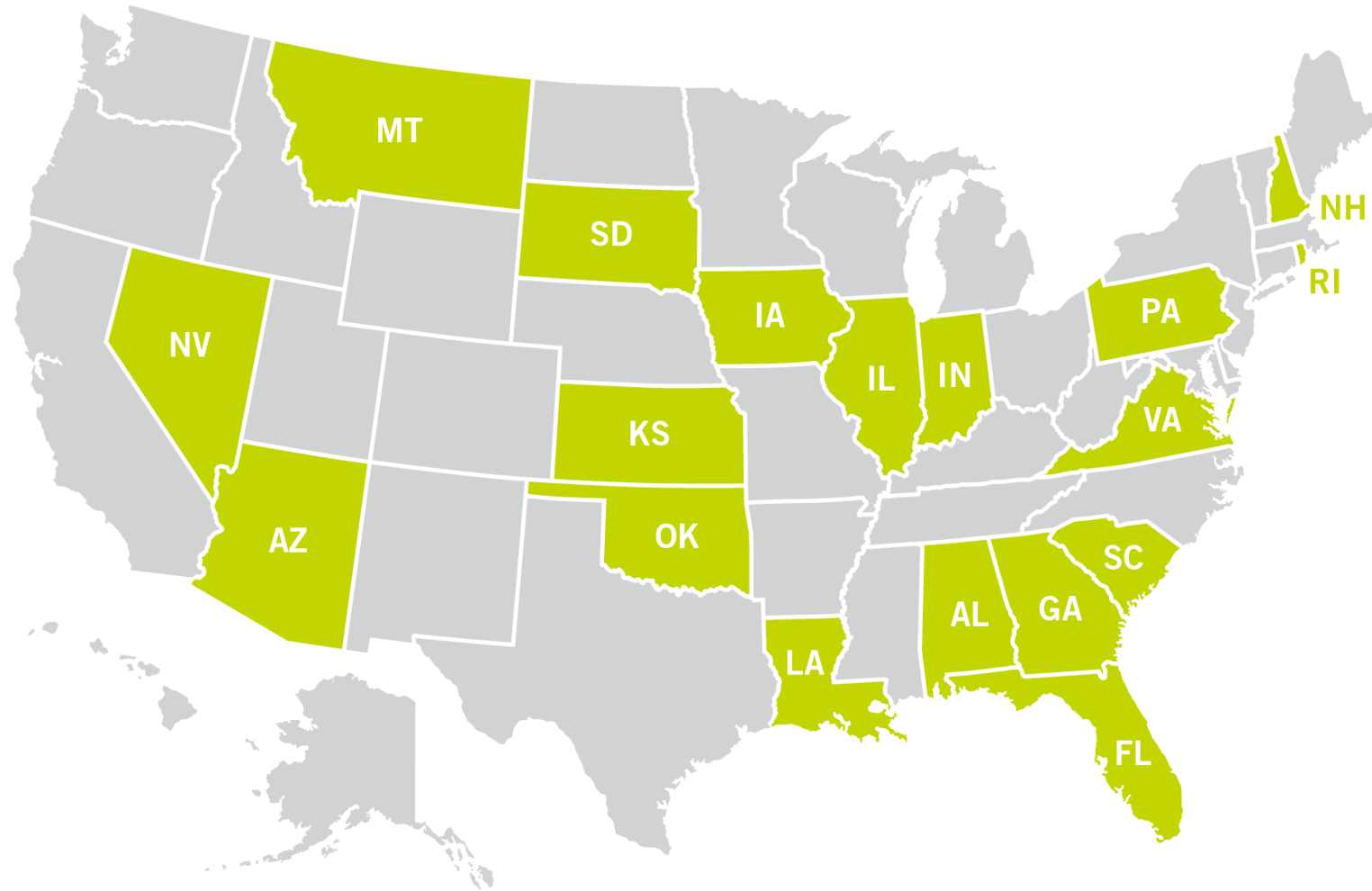



HOW TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS WORK



18 STATES HAVE TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

≥293,487 SCHOLARSHIPS NATIONWIDE





EdChoice on
Tax-Credit
Scholarships



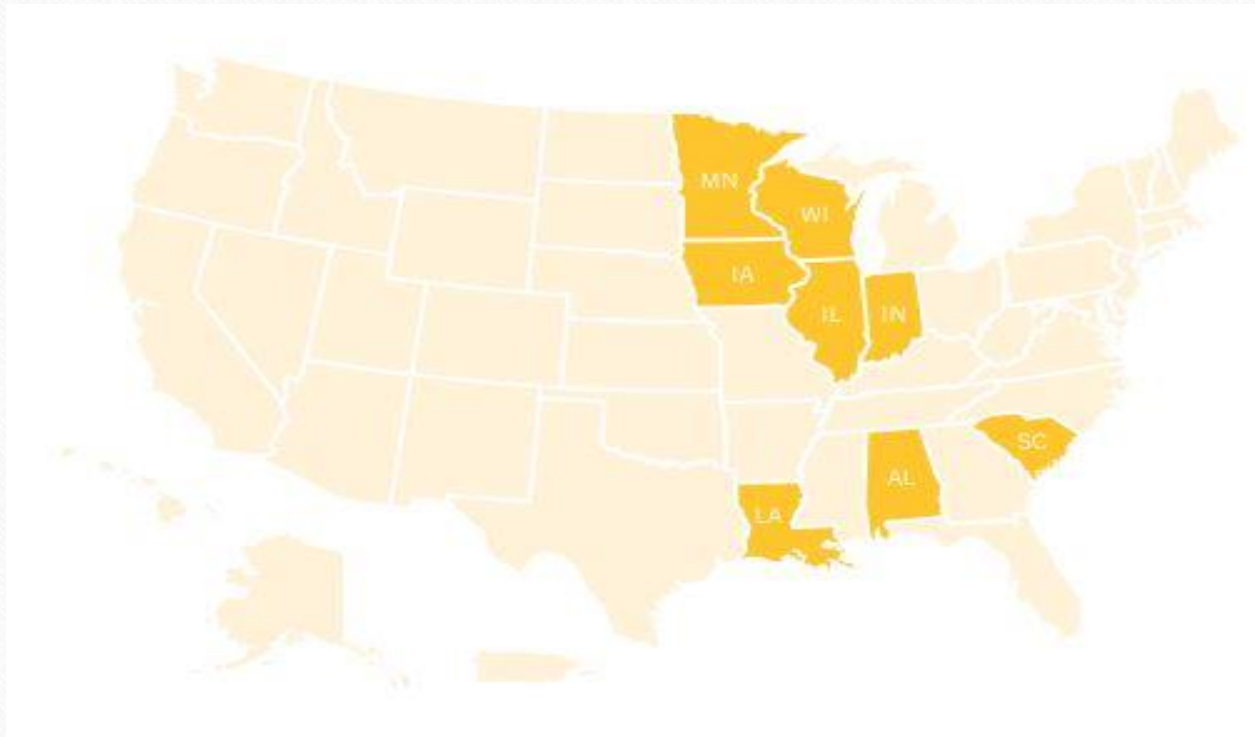
WHAT IS A
TAX-CREDIT
SCHOLARSHIP?

Individual Tax Credits & Deductions

Individual tax credits and deductions allow families to receive state income tax relief for approved educational expenses, which can include private school tuition, books, supplies, computers, tutors and transportation. Tax credits lower the total taxes a person owes; a deduction reduces a person's total taxable income.

Individual Tax Credits & Deductions

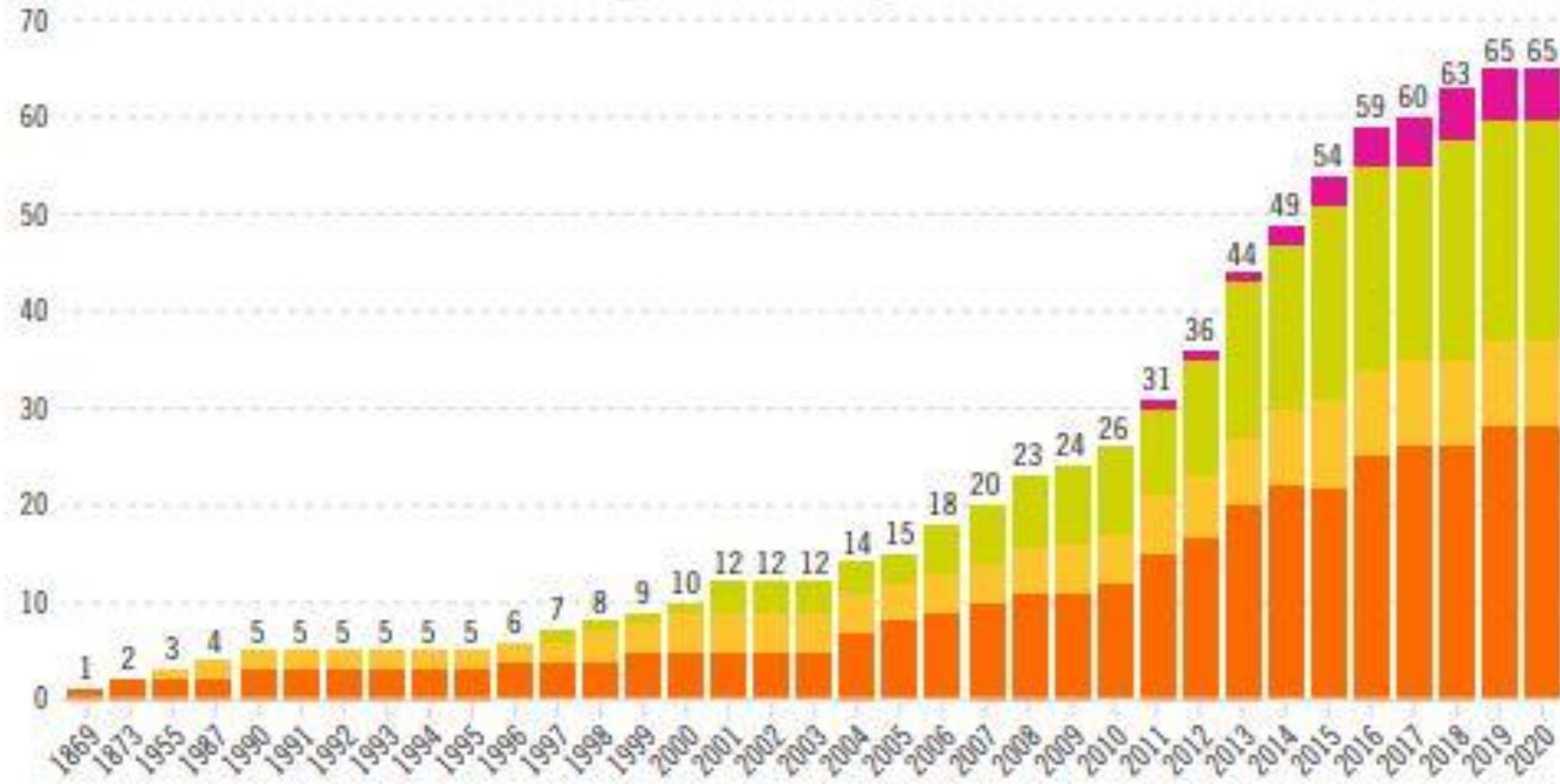
**8 States
currently offer
Individual Tax
Credits &
Deductions**



EdChoice on
Individual
Tax Credit
and
Deductions

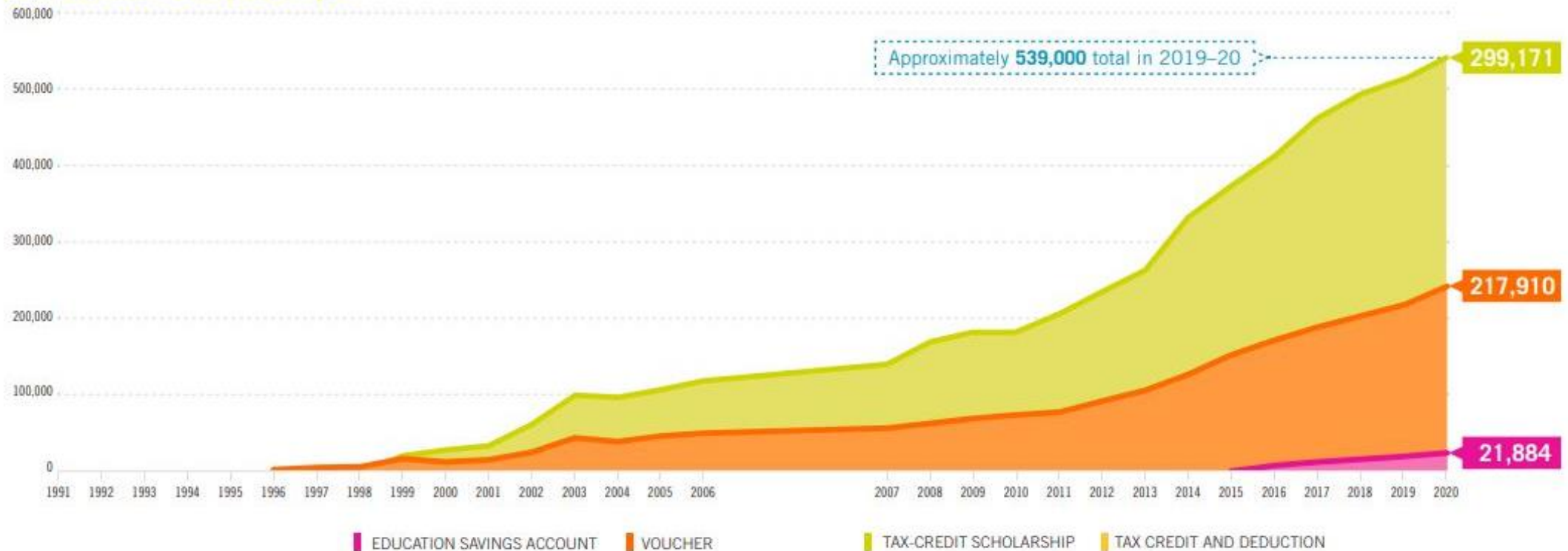
HOW DO
EDUCATION
TAX CREDITS &
DEDUCTIONS WORK?

Number of Currently Enacted Private School Choice Programs by Year Launched



Students using School Choice Programs

Number of ESAs, Vouchers and Tax-Credit Scholarships

[illegible]

VERSATILITY OF SCHOOL CHOICE

- School Choice does more than help students choose the right school, but also helps students with specific learning needs and from different backgrounds.
- The next page highlights examples of programs that serve students who fall under the following categories:
 - ☐ Special needs
 - ☐ Low-income families
 - ☐ Poorly performing districts
 - ☐ Who have been bullied

VERSATILITY OF SCHOOL CHOICE

1

Voucher

Ohio – Income-Based Scholarship Program

Ohio enacted and launched its Income-Based Scholarship Program in 2013. It offers private school vouchers to students from low- and lower middle-income households. Continue reading to learn more about this program's funding, eligibility, regulations, governing statutes, and more.

[View Program Details](#)

2

Voucher

Ohio – Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship was enacted in 2011 and launched in 2012. It provides school vouchers to Ohio students with special needs to cover private school tuition and other educational services covered by their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The Ohio Department of Education sets school voucher limits for different types of disabilities, so funding and eligibility vary. Learn more about that, regulations, and more on this page.

[View Program Details](#)

3

Voucher

Ohio – Educational Choice Scholarship Program

Ohio's "EdChoice" scholarship program, enacted in 2005 and launched in 2006, offers private school vouchers to K-12 students who are assigned to "low-performing" public schools. Participating private schools are required to accept the voucher as full tuition for students whose families are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Learn more about this program's funding, eligibility and regulations on this page.

[View Program Details](#)

4

Tax-Credit Scholarship

Florida – Hope Scholarship Program

This program allows purchasers of motor vehicles to contribute their vehicle sales tax to fund private school scholarships. Hope Scholarships may be used by students who are victims of bullying or are physically attacked in school. These students may also transfer to other public school districts. The program was enacted and launched in 2018. Learn more about the Hope Scholarship Program's details on this page, including eligibility, funding, regulations and more.

[View Program Details](#)

1

Education Savings Account

Florida – Gardiner Scholarship Program

Florida's Gardiner Scholarship Program allows students with special needs an opportunity to receive an education savings account (ESA) funded by the state and administered by an approved scholarship funding organization. Parents can use the funds to pay for a variety of educational services, including private school tuition, tutoring, online education, home education, curriculum, therapy, postsecondary educational institutions in Florida and other defined educational services.

[View Program Details](#)

Look for these New Innovations!

- Micro-Schools
- Online/E-Learning
- Hybrid Learning Models
- Open Enrollment
- Learning Pods
- Learn Everywhere



Questions?

Contact:

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Jordan@edchoice.org

I look forward to
hearing from you!



