

TEACH

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2015-2016

School Choice Yearbook

AMERICAN FEDERATION *for* CHILDREN
GROWTH FUND

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School Choice Yearbook 2015–16
An Annual Publication

PUBLISHED BY:
American Federation for Children Growth Fund
1660 L Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036

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BOOK + COVER DESIGN:
Elixir Design

Printed in the United States of America

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EDUCATIONAL CHOICE
PROGRAMS IN 2015-2016
NATIONWIDE

SCHOOL CHOICE YEARBOOK 2015-2016

FOREWORD BY BETSY DEVOS, CHAIRMAN



As a result of the work of education advocates across the country and the education revolution we've created, our nation's education system is changing. The antiquated, top-down model of education in this country that originated in the 1800s in order to "educate the masses" is beginning to transform to a student-centric model that respects every child's unique learning style.

This change has come about through victories and some setbacks, with moments of pause and moments of great change, but the momentum continues to shift in our favor. Educational choice is an essential part of the solution to our nation's education challenges, including the greater issue of education inequality in America. The idea that no child should be defined or limited by his or her ZIP code or family's income is deeply rooted in our movement's commitment to social justice. Every parent should be free to choose the best educational environment for their children and low-income and minority children are too often the ones without choice. The only way to truly improve and innovate our nation's system and help these students is through educational choice. The public is recognizing that true choice will break open our nation's closed education

system, encouraging innovation and education entrepreneurs to develop new ways for children to learn and reach their full potential.

Today there are 50 private school choice programs in 25 states plus the District of Columbia. Last year alone, four states enacted their first school choice programs, and a total of eight new programs were signed into law. Additionally, half of all states passed at least one private school choice bill out of one chamber of their respective state legislatures.

With an education system that's 200 years old, and an entrenched establishment, change can be slow, but great progress continues to be made. There's a monumental transformation underway as more and more parents rise up, speak out and demand access to educational choices for their children.

Thank you for your steadfast support and resolve to educate America's school children, and thank you for joining me in the education revolution!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy DeVos".

Betsy DeVos, *Chairman*
American Federation for Children Growth Fund

WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL CHOICE?

TYPES OF SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS BY STATE

Educational choice puts children first. Our nation's antiquated education system is failing too many students, and we must revolutionize this outdated model to serve every child. Through educational choice, parents are empowered with the ability to choose the environment—whether it is a traditional public school, charter school, private school, virtual school, home school or blended learning—that best suits their children's needs. This encourages innovation and the creation of groundbreaking education methods to disrupt the status quo and help every child succeed academically.

-  VOUCHER PROGRAMS
-  EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS
-  INDIVIDUAL TUITION TAX CREDITS
-  SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS
-  PROGRAM SERVES SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS



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.

VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

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

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.

MAGNET SCHOOLS

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

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

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.

COURSE CHOICE

Course Choice, also known as Course Access, 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.

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 help families choose educational tools they otherwise could not afford.



TYPES OF SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

There are many different types of publicly funded private school choice programs, but they all have the same goal — to give children access to a quality education. Programs can specifically serve students from low-income families, failing schools or those with special needs. This year, we also saw one state enact the nation's first near-universal education savings account program. Every program helps to innovate the system and place a focus on putting students first.

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.

VOUCHER PROGRAMS

INDIANA'S Choice Scholarship Program
 LOUISIANA'S Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program*
 MARYLAND'S Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today
 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

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-four of the nation's 48 private school choice programs are means-tested or means-preferenced.

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
 KANSAS Tax Credit for Low Income Student's Scholarship Program
 LOUISIANA'S Tuition Donation Rebate Program*
 NEVADA Educational Choice Scholarship 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
 SOUTH DAKOTA'S The Partners in Education Tax Credit Program
 VIRGINIA Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits

* Some programs are designed to be for students in failing schools and also is a means-tested or means-preferenced program. Additionally, some programs are designed for students with special needs who are also assigned to failing schools.

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. Eight of the nation's 48 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*
 KANSAS Tax Credit for Low Income Student Scholarship Program
 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*

UNIVERSAL ELIGIBILITY PROGRAMS

Universal eligibility programs allow every child, with no restrictions, the opportunity to receive a scholarship to attend the school of his or her parent's choice.

SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

ARIZONA Individual Tuition Tax Credit
 MONTANA Tax Credits for Contributions to Student Scholarship Organization's

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS

NEVADA Educational Savings Account Program
 (Students already attending private school are ineligible for this 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. Nineteen of the nation's 48 private school choice programs are specifically designed to serve students with special needs.

VOUCHER PROGRAMS

ARKANSAS' Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities
 FLORIDA'S John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program
 GEORGIA Special Needs Scholarship Program
 LOUISIANA'S School Choice 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
 NORTH CAROLINA'S Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grant
 OHIO'S Autism Scholarship Program
 OHIO'S Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program
 OKLAHOMA'S Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program
 UTAH'S Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship
 WISCONSIN Special Needs Scholarship Program

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*
 FLORIDA The Gardiner Scholarship Program
 MISSISSIPPI'S Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs
 TENNESSEE'S Individualized Education Account Program

INDIVIDUAL TUITION TAX CREDITS

SOUTH CAROLINA'S Refundable Tuition Credit for Exceptional Needs Children



EDUCATIONAL CHOICE TODAY

2015 was a remarkable year for educational choice. States offered more educational options to its K–12 students through improving quality programs and exploring new and innovative forms of private school choice.

During the legislative session, eight new programs were created across the country, making this year one of the most successful the school choice movement has ever seen. Additionally, four states enacted their first ever school choice programs, bringing the total number of states with private school choice programs to 23 plus the District of Columbia.

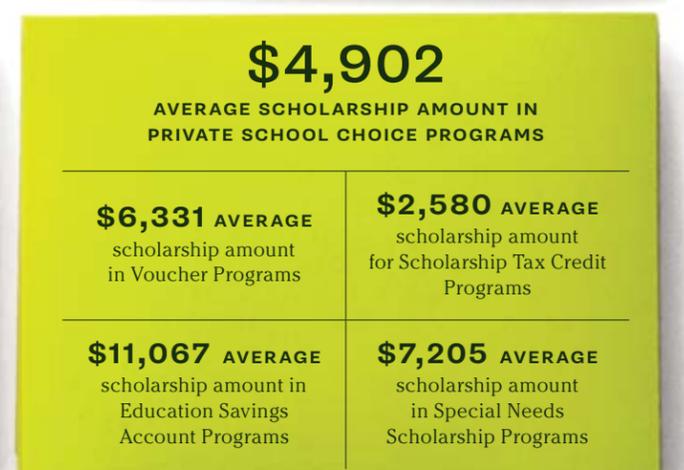
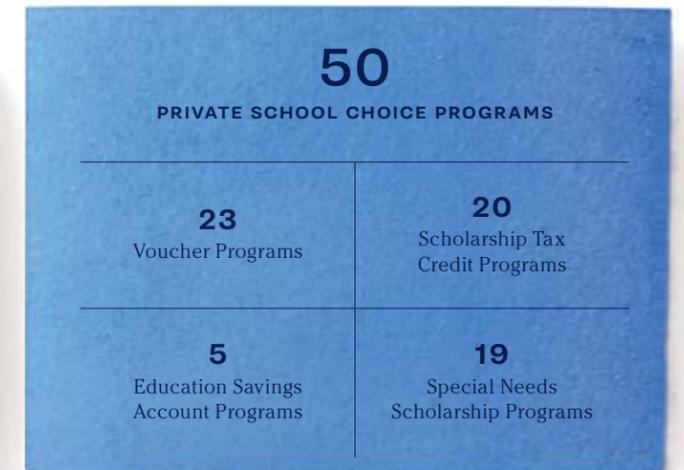
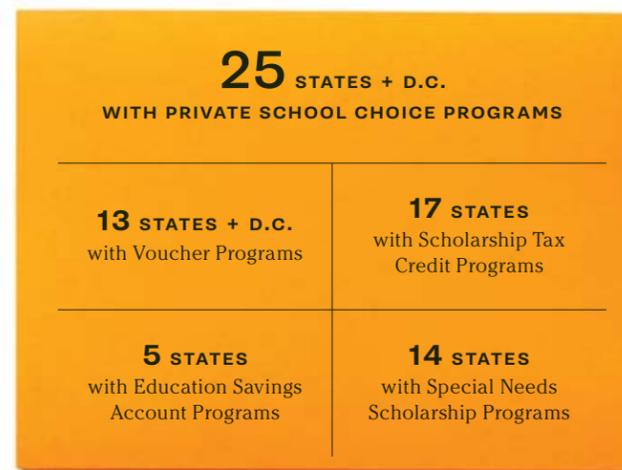
Nearly 400,000 students take advantage of a private school choice program nationwide—more than ever before. This year, many programs were expanded and improved, notably Florida, where The Gardiner Scholarship Program serving special needs students had a major funding and modest eligibility expansion, and Arizona, where the state's ESA

program eligibility was expanded to include students living on Native American reservations.

States also responded to the needs of children and parents, seeking the ability to customize education to meet their needs and foster innovation in the state's education system.

Nevada became a leader in this movement in 2015, enacting its first two private school choice programs. The state created the nation's first near-universal education savings account program as well as a scholarship tax credit program specifically serving low-income students.

2015–16 DATA AT A GLANCE*



*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.

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE GROWTH

NEW PROGRAMS IN 2015



ARKANSAS

SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A voucher program that provides scholarships to students with special needs to attend the private school of their parents' choice.



MISSISSIPPI

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ACT

An education savings account (ESA) program available for 500 special needs students to access accounts worth approximately \$6,500. An additional 500 slots will be available in each subsequent year.



MONTANA

TAX CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

A scholarship tax credit program that provides individuals and corporations with a tax credit for donations made to student scholarship organizations. Eligibility for the program is universal; however, the donor tax credit cap is limited to \$150.



NEVADA

NEVADA EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM

A near-universal education savings account (ESA) program allows for any Nevada student who has attended public school for at least 100 days to qualify for the program. Eligible children wishing to use an ESA will receive 90 percent of the average state funding for public school students, while low-income students or those with special needs will receive 100 percent of the funds.

NEVADA EDUCATIONAL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A \$5 million corporate scholarship tax credit program was also enacted in 2015. Scholarships up to \$7,750 will be available to students whose families earn up to 300 percent of the poverty level.



SOUTH CAROLINA

REFUNDABLE TUITION CREDIT FOR EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS CHILDREN

A first-come, first-served refundable tax credit scholarship program is available to parents of special needs students for up to \$10,000, which can go toward tuition and the costs of specialists, among other expenses.



TENNESSEE

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION ACCOUNT PROGRAM

An education savings account (ESA) program to pay for educational expenses for students with special needs in grades K-12.



WISCONSIN

SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A new voucher program for students with special needs who have been denied the right to switch public school districts, giving them scholarships to attend the private school of their parents' choice.

EXPANDED AND IMPROVED PROGRAMS IN 2015



ALABAMA

TAX CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS

Expanded its scholarship tax credit program cap from \$25 million to \$30 million as well as increased accountability and transparency



ARIZONA

ARIZONA EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS PROGRAM

Expanded to include nearly 50,000 children living on Native American reservations
Created a bipartisan study committee to look into ways to improve ESAs for special needs students

CORPORATE SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION PROGRAM

S-corporations were added to the list of eligible donors



FLORIDA

THE GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Increased funding from \$18 million to \$55 million
Expanded eligibility to include additional diagnoses as well as 3- and 4-year-olds who meet diagnosis criteria



INDIANA

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Increased voucher amounts for students in grades K-8 by as much as \$2,000 in some cases

CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

\$1 million increase for each of the next two fiscal years



NORTH CAROLINA

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Increased funding for the state's voucher program from \$10 million to nearly \$25 million



OHIO

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND INCOME-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Both the income-based program and the underperforming schools program voucher amounts increased to \$4,650 for students in grades K-8 and \$5,900 for 2015-16, and will increase to \$6,000 for 2016-17 for students in grades 9-12

AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP AND JON PETERSON SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Increased scholarship cap to \$27,000
Scholarship dollar amounts per special needs category will increase as well



OKLAHOMA

IMPROVED THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Raised the tax credit value percentage to 75 percent for two-year contributions



WISCONSIN

Increased voucher amounts for both elementary and high school students for all of the state's voucher programs
Raised and then eliminated the enrollment caps on the statewide voucher program over a number of years
Required state-created report cards on the academic success of all schools teaching publicly funded students in traditional public schools, independent charters and private schools participating in the voucher program

PROGRAMS: ENROLLMENT AND FUNDING

SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES				
STATE	PROGRAM	YEAR ENACTED	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2015-16	FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2015-16
ALABAMA	Tax Credits for Contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations	2013	3,590	\$13,413,510
ARIZONA	Individual School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	1997	46,536	\$92,504,312
ARIZONA	Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	2006	16,579	\$42,998,170
ARIZONA	Lexie's Law	2009	808	\$5,031,920
FLORIDA	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship	2001	77,079	\$447,265,625
GEORGIA	Georgia Scholarship Tax Credit Program	2008	13,428	\$53,786,581
INDIANA	Corporate and Individual Scholarship Tax Credit Program	2009	9,127	\$16,195,681
IOWA	Individual and Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit	2006	10,848	\$16,200,000
KANSAS	Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program	2014	73	\$108,384
LOUISIANA	Tuition Donation Rebate Program	2012	776	\$221,161
MONTANA	Tax Credits for Contributions to Student Scholarship Organizations	2015	N/A	N/A
NEVADA	Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program	2015	541	N/A
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Education Tax Credit Program	2012	128	\$217,199
OKLAHOMA	Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships	2011	871	\$951,701
PENNSYLVANIA	Educational Improvement Tax Credit	2001	34,826	\$65,800,000
PENNSYLVANIA	Educational Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit	2012	14,987	\$58,200,000
RHODE ISLAND	Rhode Island Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit	2006	513	\$1,568,036
SOUTH CAROLINA	Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children	2013	2,089	\$8,000,000
SOUTH DAKOTA	The Partners in Education Tax Credit Program	2016	N/A	N/A
VIRGINIA	Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits	2012	1,368	\$3,864,861
			234,167	\$826,327,141

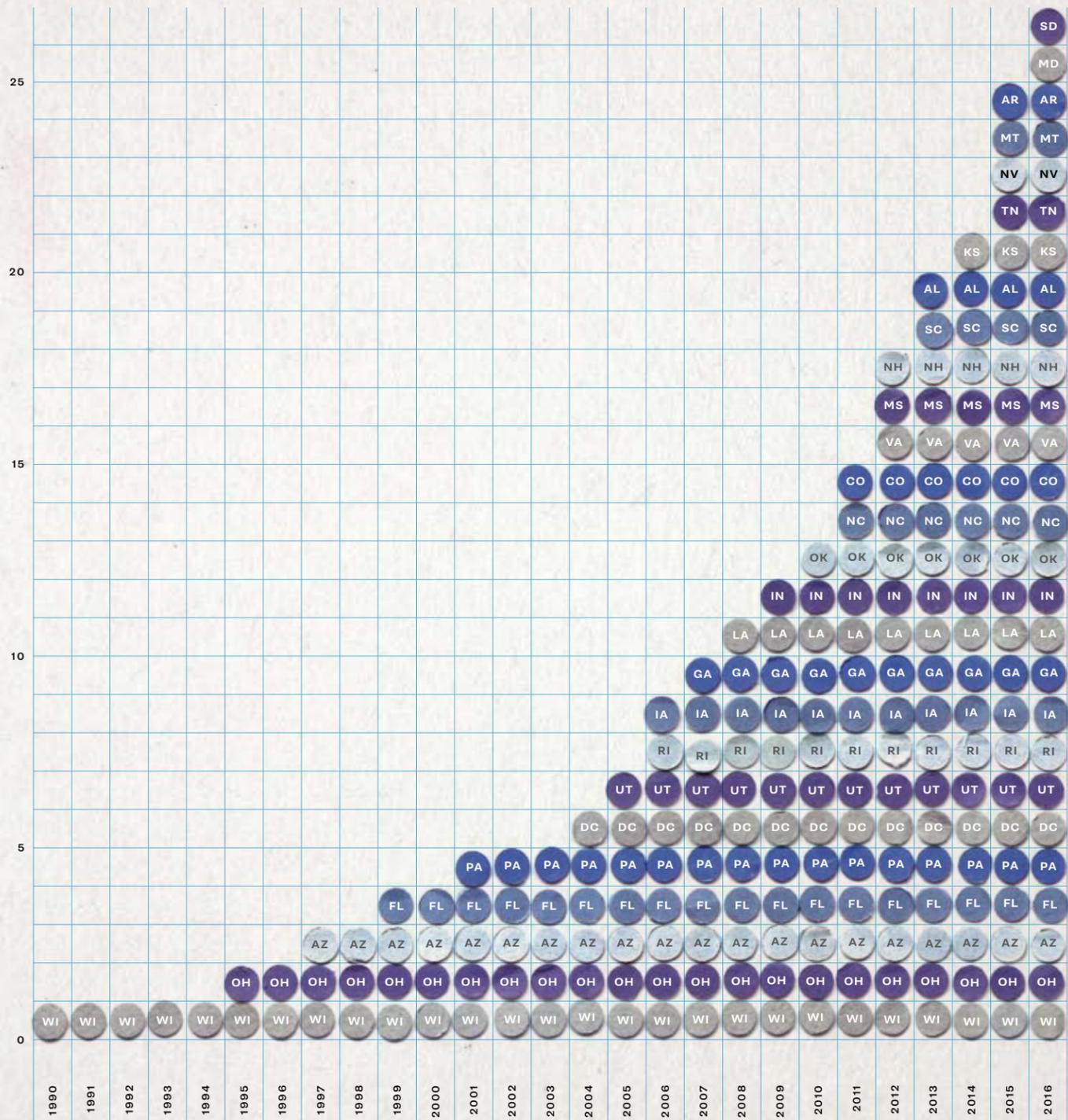
EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES				
STATE	PROGRAM	YEAR ENACTED	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2015-16	FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2015-16
ARIZONA	Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program	2011	2,502	\$28,217,709
FLORIDA	The Gardiner Scholarship Program	2014	3,814	\$41,400,000
MISSISSIPPI	Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act	2015	286	N/A
NEVADA	Nevada Educational Savings Account Program	2015	N/A	N/A
TENNESSEE	Individualized Education Account Program	2015	N/A	N/A
			6,602	\$69,617,709

VOUCHER PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES				
STATE	PROGRAM	YEAR ENACTED	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2015-16	FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2015-16
ARKANSAS	Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities	2015	N/A	N/A
FLORIDA	John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	1999	30,116	\$357,000,000
GEORGIA	Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	2007	3,400	\$13,649,039
INDIANA	Choice Scholarship Program	2011	32,686	\$136,200,000
LOUISIANA	Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program	2008	7,110	\$41,457,453
LOUISIANA	School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities	2010	342	\$774,275
MARYLAND	Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today	2016	N/A	N/A
MISSISSIPPI	Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship	2012	149	\$732,783
MISSISSIPPI	Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship	2013	1	N/A
NORTH CAROLINA	Opportunity Scholarship Program	2013	3,673	\$17,600,000
NORTH CAROLINA	Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grants	2013	820	\$4,428,000
OHIO	Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program	1995	7,372	\$30,796,220
OHIO	Autism Scholarship Program	2003	3,135	\$54,621,023
OHIO	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	2005	20,201	\$80,132,424
OHIO	Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program	2011	4,159	\$29,886,728
OHIO	Income-Based Scholarship Program (EdChoice Expansion)	2013	5,594	\$13,081,658
OKLAHOMA	Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	2010	469	\$3,600,000
UTAH	Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	2005	700	\$3,739,717
WASHINGTON, D.C.	D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program	2004	1,244	\$13,200,000
WISCONSIN	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	1990	27,622	\$196,400,000
WISCONSIN	Racine Parental Choice Program	2011	2,127	\$15,100,000
WISCONSIN	Wisconsin Parental Choice Program	2013	2,514	\$18,300,000
WISCONSIN	Wisconsin Special Needs Scholarship Program	2015	N/A	N/A
			153,434	\$1,030,699,320

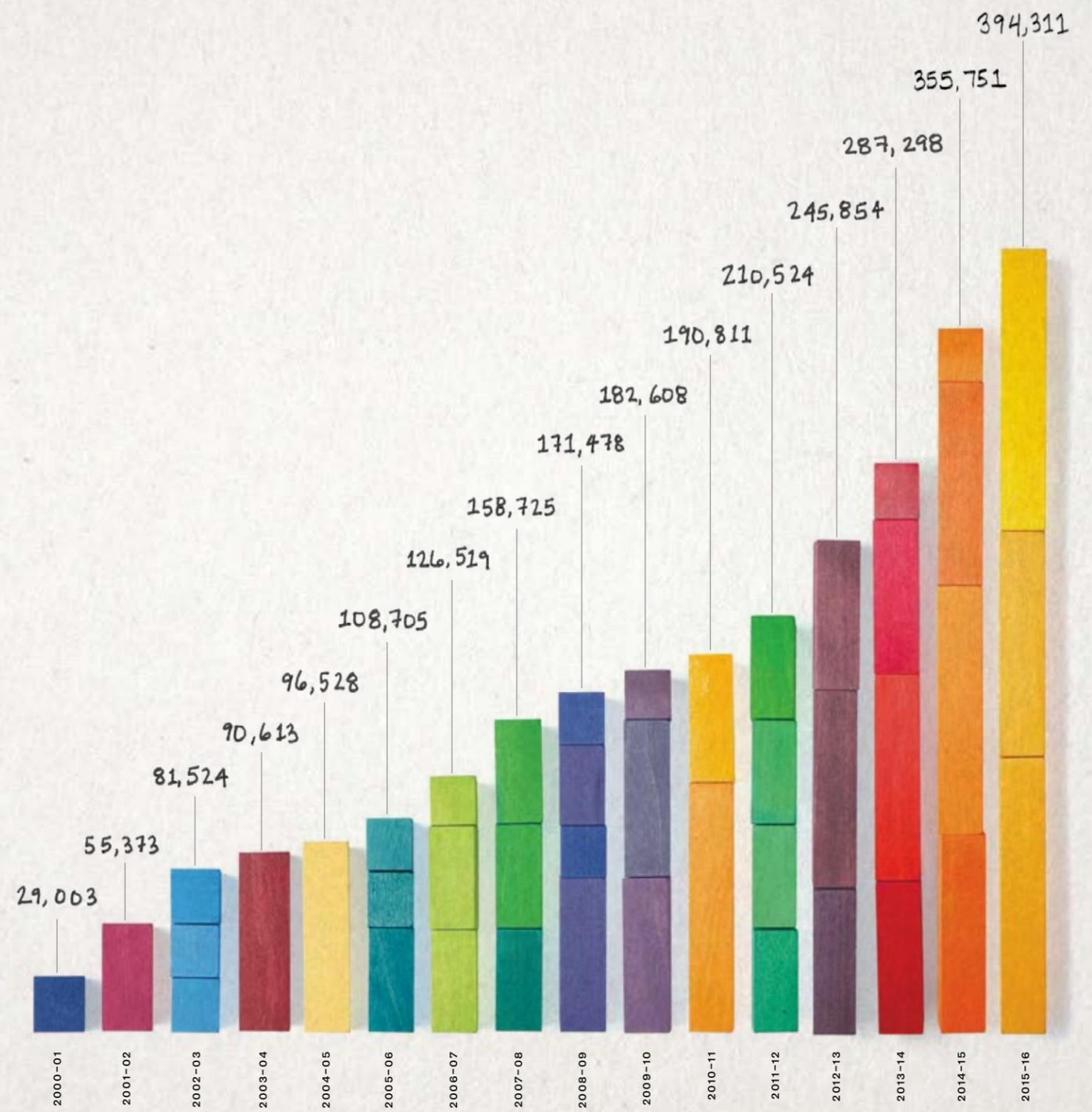
INDIVIDUAL TUITION TAX CREDITS				
STATE	PROGRAM	YEAR ENACTED	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2014-15	FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2014-15
ALABAMA	Parent Refundable Tax Credits	2013	108	\$233,988
SOUTH CAROLINA	Refundable Tuition Credit for Exceptional Needs Children	2015	N/A	N/A
			108	\$233,988

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.

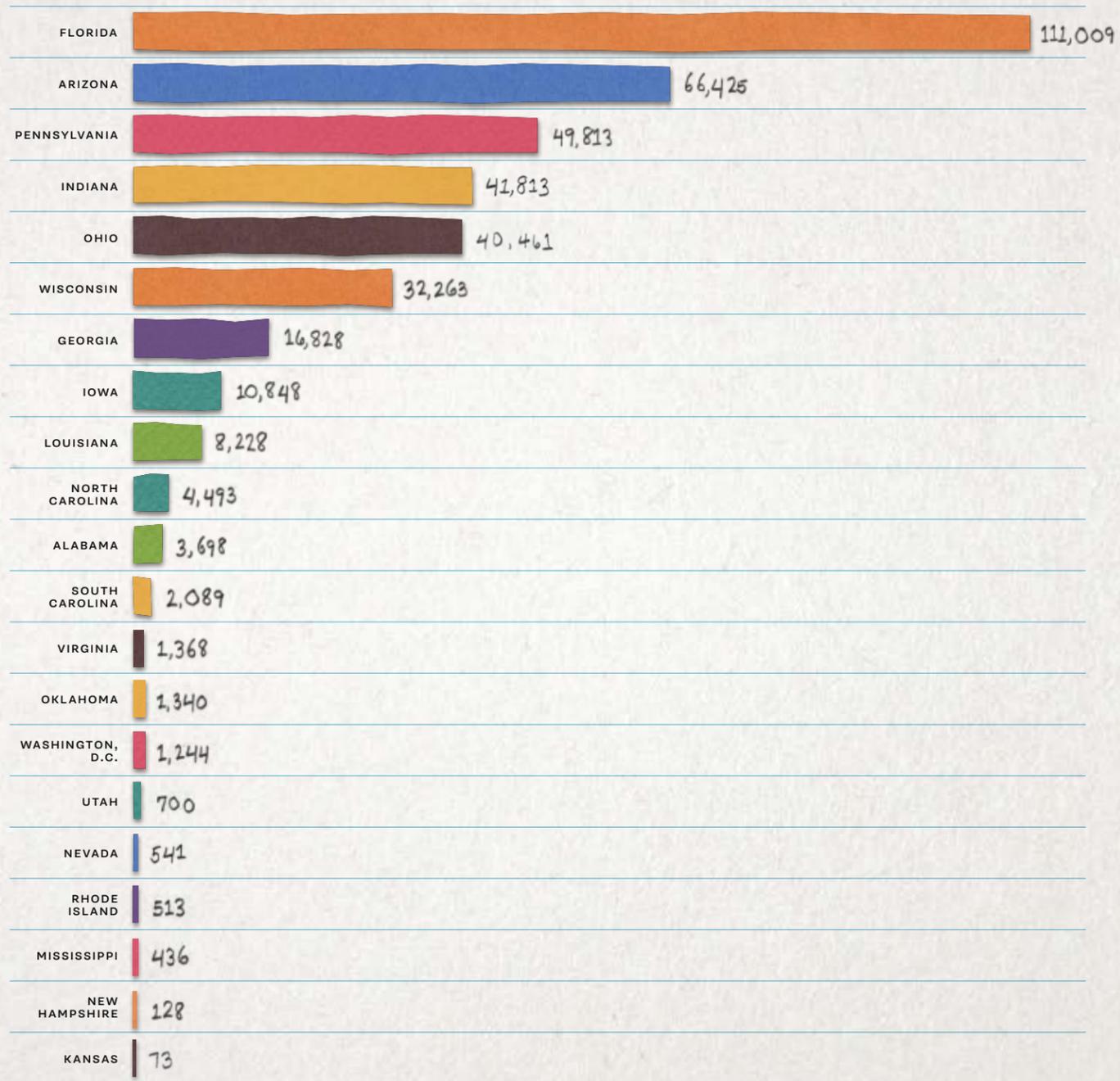
GROWTH OF STATES WITH PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS



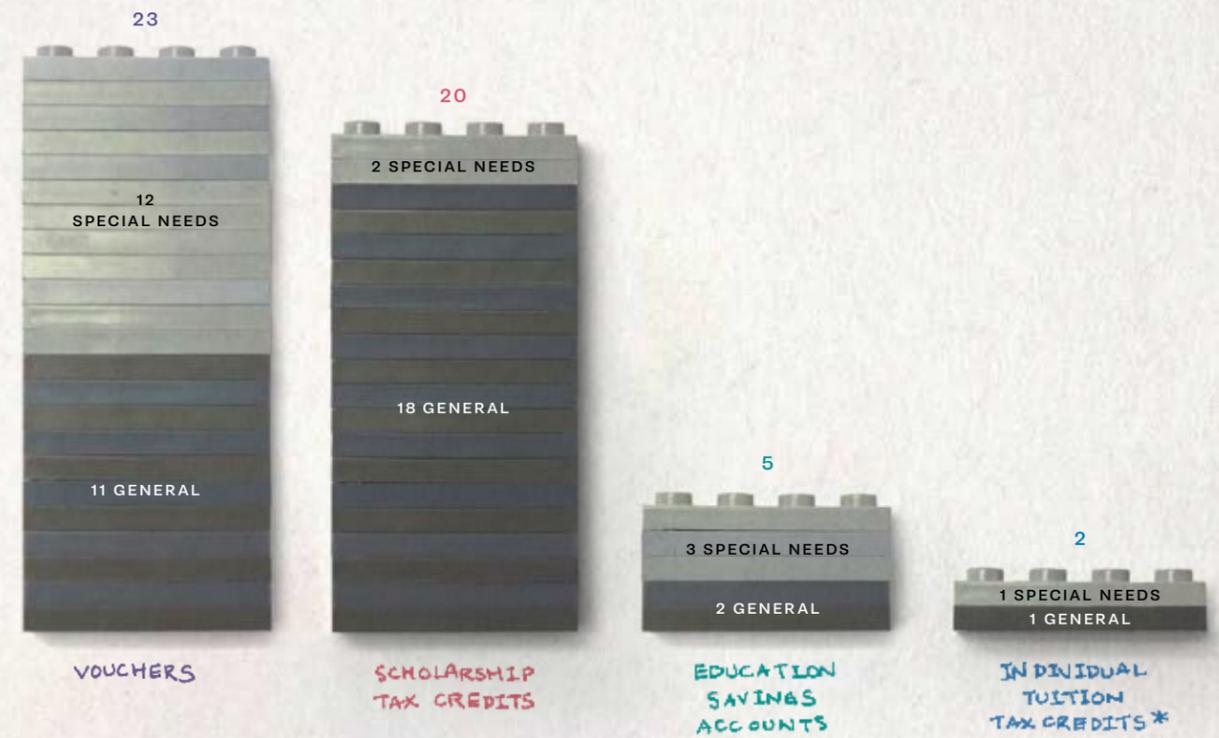
RECENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH IN SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS



2015-16 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY STATE



48 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, AFC Growth Fund only officially counts Alabama's Parent Refundable Tax Credit and South Carolina's Refundable Tax Credit for Exceptional Needs Children because they are the only credits that are sufficiently large enough to affect a family's ability to place their child in private school.

INNOVATION THROUGH SCHOOL CHOICE

“We must open up the education [system] ... we must open it up to entrepreneurs and innovators. This is how families without means will get access to a world-class education. This is how a student who’s not learning in their current model can find an individualized learning environment that will meet their needs.”

— Betsy DeVos, 2015 SXSW EDU Conference

By almost all accounts, the U.S. education system is failing its students. On standardized tests, when compared with peers worldwide, American students continue to fall in the middle of the pack. Also on the “Nation’s Report Card” or NAEP assessment:



ONLY 40%

OF 4TH GRADERS ARE PROFICIENT IN MATH, A DECLINE FROM THE YEAR PRIOR.



ONLY 36%

OF 4TH GRADERS ARE PROFICIENT IN READING.

While proponents of the status quo may point to rising graduation rates, the fact is our nation’s education system is not preparing its students. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education found that 60 percent of first-year college students are not fully prepared for their college courses.

Much of the mediocrity found in our nation’s education system can be attributed to its antiquated approach. Over the last 150 years, a great deal has evolved, including transportation, communication and the economy—everything except for education. The system is still modeled on the outdated Prussian education method that was implemented in the 1800s in order to educate the masses, something we have surely moved beyond.

While the U.S. education system has flatlined, there are still excellent schools offering innovative teaching methods to students; cutting-edge and impressive schools like KIPP Public Charter Schools, Success Academy Charter Schools in Harlem, Hope Christian Schools in Milwaukee, Cristo Rey Schools, Acton Academy and the new AltSchool in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York

ALL OF THESE SCHOOLS HAVE TWO THINGS IN COMMON:

1. THEY CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO, OFFERING A MODIFIED WAY TO TEACH STUDENTS.
2. THEY’RE CURRENTLY ONLY AVAILABLE TO A FEW STUDENTS, EITHER DUE TO LACK OF CAPACITY OR THE COST OF TUITION.

School choice, whether it’s in the form of a voucher, tax credit scholarship, education savings account, course choice, virtual school or public charter school, disrupts the status quo and offers parents the ability to choose an innovative option that best suits their child’s academic needs.

The status quo in education will not innovate on its own. There’s no incentive, and a transformation of the system threatens those who benefit from the existing monopoly in public education.

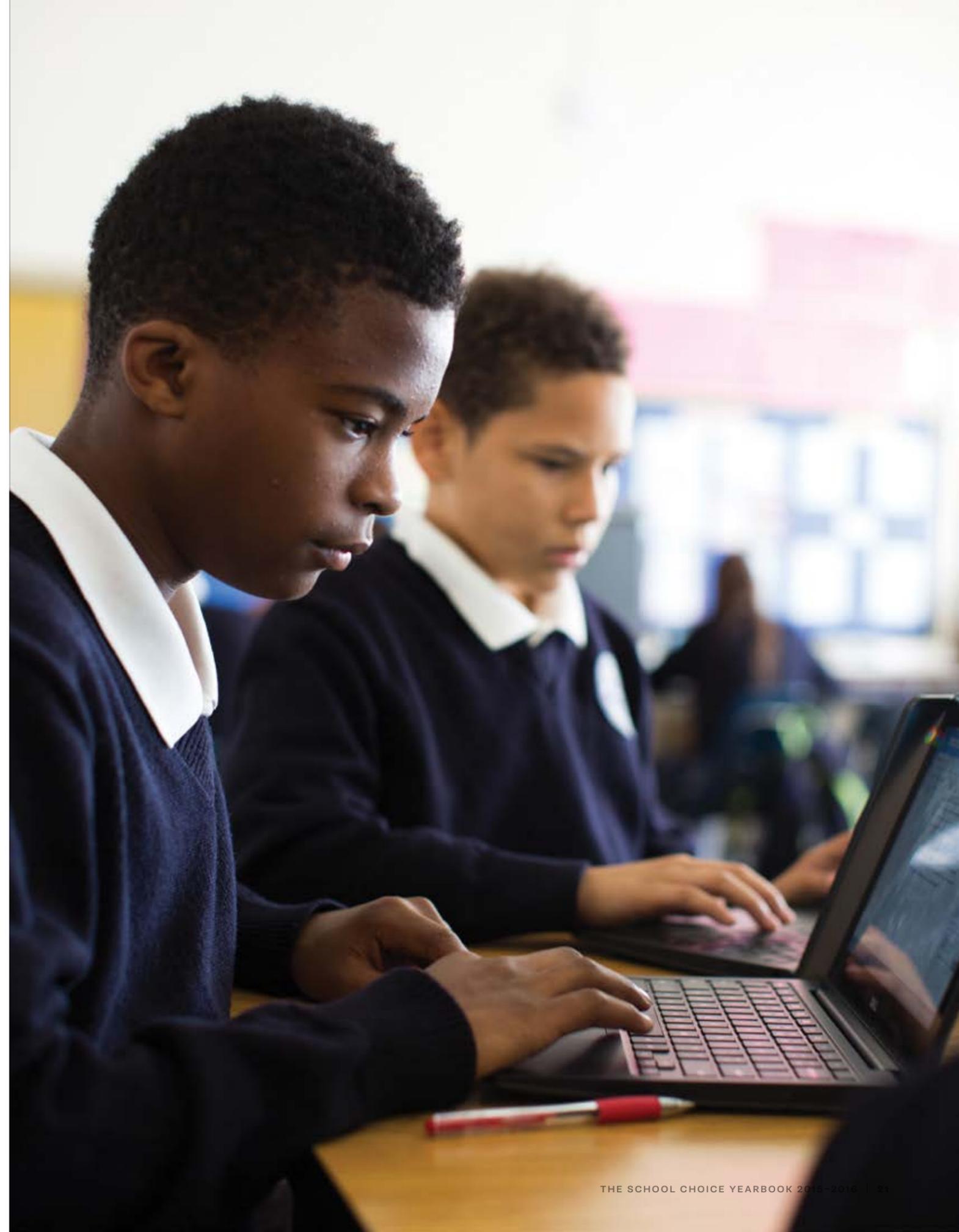
As the success and momentum for the school choice movement continues to grow, the ability to attract innovators in education will also grow. As more entrepreneurs view the U.S. as a system open to innovation, the options available will continue to evolve and create an education system that will truly put students first.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



As a part of its Great Choice Schools video series, AFC Growth Fund recently visited an innovative school that is working to give students a brighter future. The Crossing Education Center in Indiana specifically focuses on at-risk youth and seeks to provide them with an all-encompassing education that focuses on academics and preparation for the real world. What makes the school unique is its focus on job training. The school partners with local businesses

to give students internships in industries that are of interest to them. The day we visited, students were working at a candle-making factory and learning how to work on the line and package merchandise. The Crossing uses an innovative learning model to empower students and help them succeed in the future. To see footage from our visit to this Great Choice School, visit: [YouTube.com/SchoolChoiceWorks](https://www.youtube.com/SchoolChoiceWorks).



LEGAL UPDATE

Nearly every newly enacted or even established private school choice program has faced legal challenges, as opponents of educational choice have turned to litigation in an attempt to thwart the will of parents. In the last 10 years, 15 lawsuits have been filed attempting to block a school choice program. Of these, the courts have upheld nine programs outright with other cases still in progress. In anticipation of these legal actions, the American Federation for Children and the American Federation for Children Growth Fund work with our allies at the Institute for Justice to ensure programs can withstand legal examination and continue to serve children at a high level while facing this sort of scrutiny.

FLORIDA: ONGOING

In Florida, the state school boards association and the teachers' union teamed up to file three different lawsuits against the state's school choice programs.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP CASE: 2 VICTORIES AND 1 ONGOING

The state teachers' union and school boards association sued to shut down the state's long-running tax credit scholarship program, which serves 77,000 students, all of whom come from low-income families and the vast majority of whom are minority students. There was a hearing in early 2015 to dismiss the lawsuit. It's possible that litigation will take several years and ultimately be decided by the state Supreme Court.

ADEQUACY FUNDING LAWSUIT: ONGOING

This case has been in litigation for several years, although recently the union and parents' groups have claimed that the tax credit scholarship program, McKay scholarship program and charter schools are draining money from public schools and believe that is unconstitutional. The coalition in support of the adequacy funding lawsuit is also arguing that the pre-K program is underfunded, violating the state constitution as well. This case remains in litigation.

DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO: LOST

In early December 2014, the Colorado Supreme Court heard arguments on the constitutionality of Douglas County's voucher program. The Douglas County School Board created its own voucher program in 2011, and almost immediately, a lawsuit was filed to block the program. Unfortunately, the state Supreme Court overturned the Court of Appeals' ruling in favor of the opponents, striking down the constitutionality of the program. Proponents of the Douglas County program are now petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court.

GEORGIA: VICTORY

In February 2016, a judge dismissed claims made in a lawsuit by the Southern Education Foundation, that the scholarship tax credit program was not constitutional. The legal victory upheld the program and allows for the program to remain intact and available to serve Georgia families. An appeal is expected but has not been filed as of the date of publication.

NORTH CAROLINA: VICTORY

The North Carolina Association of Educators, a teachers' union, and the North Carolina Justice Center sued to block the state's voucher program. The state Supreme Court heard arguments on the case in February 2015 and in July 2015, the program was upheld.

OKLAHOMA: VICTORY

In February 2016, the state Supreme Court ruled that the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities law is constitutional. After a temporary setback in August 2014, when a district court judge ruled against the program, the state Supreme Court ruled the special needs voucher does not violate the Oklahoma Constitution, which prohibits public money from being used to support religious purposes.

NEVADA: ONGOING

On the heels of passing the nation's first near universal-eligibility education savings account program, two lawsuits were filed in a Nevada court attempting to block the program from serving students. *Duncan v. State of Nevada* and *Lopez v. Schwartz* have similar arguments claiming that the ESA program is unconstitutional in Nevada. Expected to start awarding scholarships in 2016, the program had an injunction filed against it in January blocking the program from serving students. An appeal has been filed, and efforts are being made to deliver the promised funds to families in the state.

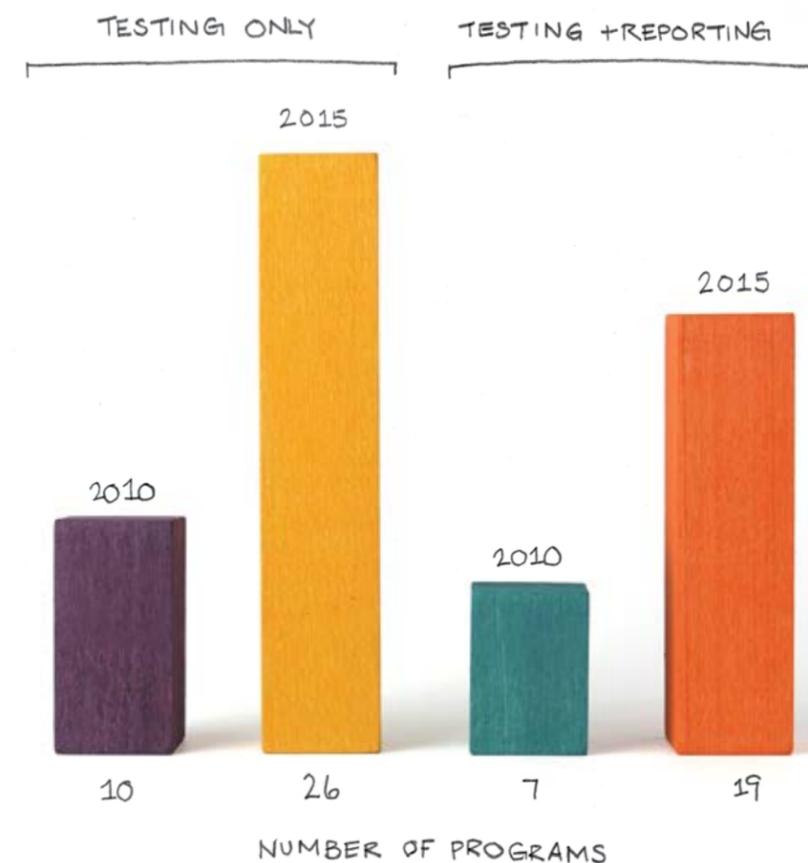
QUALITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The American Federation for Children Growth Fund believes that quality program design, transparency and accountability in educational choice programs are crucial for program effectiveness, growth and longevity.

AFC Growth Fund and its sister organization, the American Federation for Children, work to ensure that private school choice programs include effective policy and program design, including commonsense academic, administrative and financial accountability provisions. It is best to have these elements included in new programs from their original enactment, but when possible, they are added to existing programs where such provisions are absent. We strive to educate lawmakers and advocates alike on the importance of effective policy and program design, including academic accountability, high scholarship amounts and building a framework for robust enrollment growth. We believe these are some of the most important elements necessary for program quality and growth.

The momentum behind ensuring academic transparency and accountability in particular continues to gain strength, as it is increasingly recognized that academic data is an important component in the range of information parents need in order to choose high-quality schools that best meet the needs of their children. Simultaneously, policy makers, taxpayers and donors must be able to measure the impact of private school choice programs on academic achievement and attainment. As the chart below illustrates, the number of programs that include academic transparency and accountability has increased by more than 100 percent over the past five years. In fact, of the eight new programs enacted in 2015, four require testing and reporting, and two require just testing but no public reporting.

GROWTH IN NUMBER OF PROGRAMS THAT CONTAIN ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY



ACCOUNTABILITY CHECK

AFC Growth Fund supports strong, commonsense accountability provisions for all private school choice programs. Transparency and accountability is smart public policy and also provides educational choice advocates with readily available data and information to showcase program successes.

Academic Accountability results in transparency to parents, policy makers, taxpayers and donors. Parents must have the information to choose high-quality schools that meet the needs of their children, while policy makers, 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
ARKANSAS	Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
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	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
WISCONSIN	Wisconsin Special Needs Scholarship Program	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○

*Not necessarily a standardized test; law requires formal testing procedure

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	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
KANSAS	Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LOUISIANA	Tuition Donation Rebate Program	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MONTANA	Tax Credits for Contributions to Student Scholarship Organizations	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
NEVADA	Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship 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 EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS

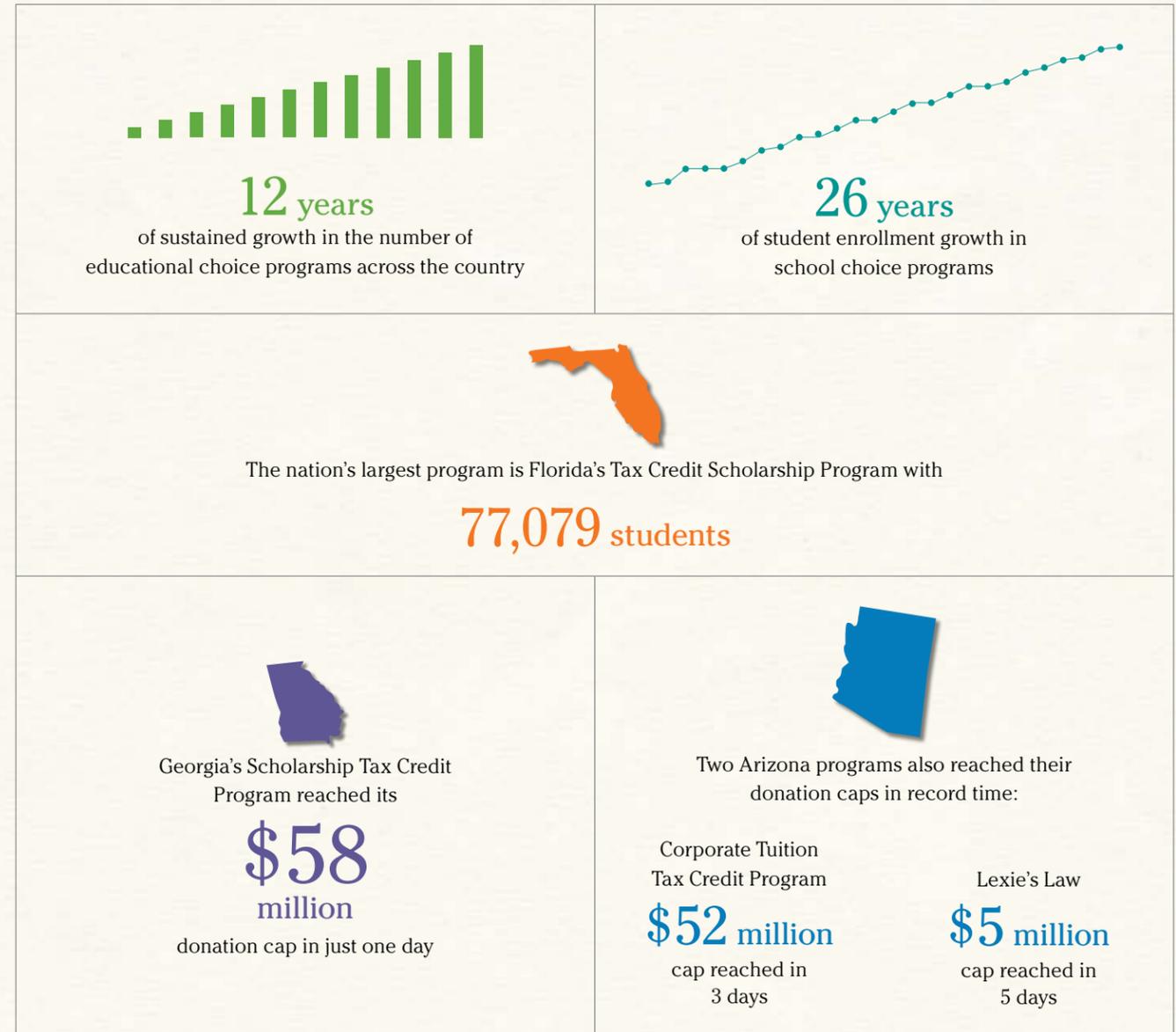
		ADMINISTRATIVE			FINANCIAL		ACADEMIC		
		HEALTH AND SAFETY	NONDISCRIMINATION	BACKGROUND CHECKS	PROOF OF FINANCIAL VIABILITY	ANNUAL AUDITS (RANDOM SAMPLE)	STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS	PUBLIC REPORTING OF RESULTS	INDEPENDENT EVALUATION
ARIZONA	Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FLORIDA	The Gardiner Scholarship Program	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
MISSISSIPPI	Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
NEVADA	Nevada Educational Savings Account Program	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
TENNESSEE	Individualized Education Account Program	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

70%
 OF LIKELY VOTERS
 SUPPORT SCHOOL
 CHOICE

FACTS, FIGURES AND POLLING

The data behind school choice programs and their support nationally are important aspects of the school choice movement. No matter the type of educational option, the public is in favor of extending high-quality opportunities to children, and existing programs are hitting milestones that make them stronger than ever before.

FACTS + FIGURES

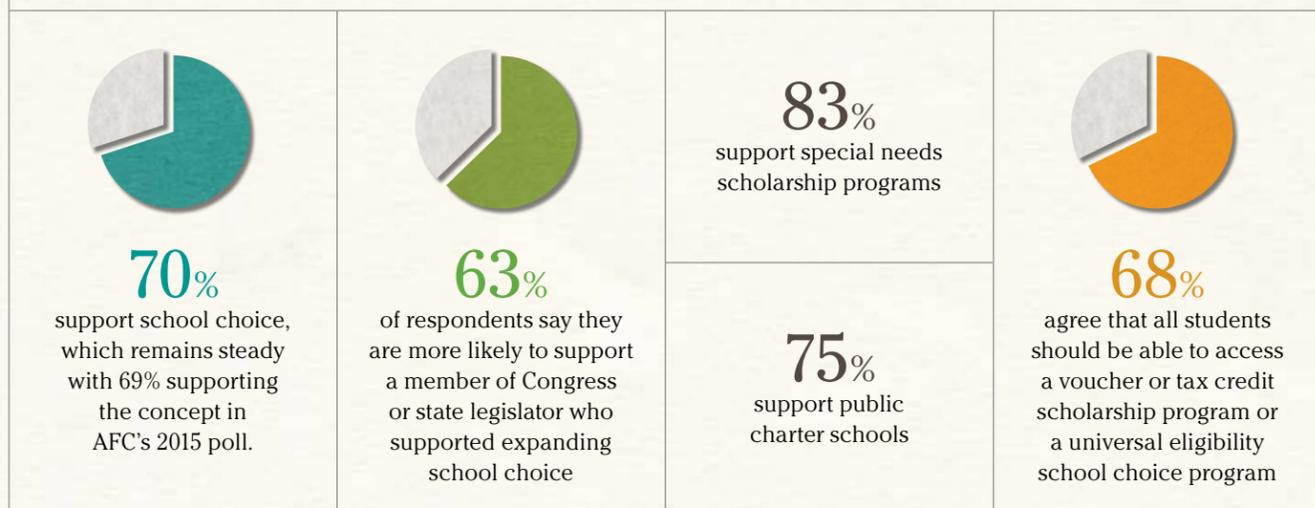


The American Federation for Children continues to conduct state and national polling throughout the year. This year's results show even stronger support for educational choice nationally and among many different demographics of voters.

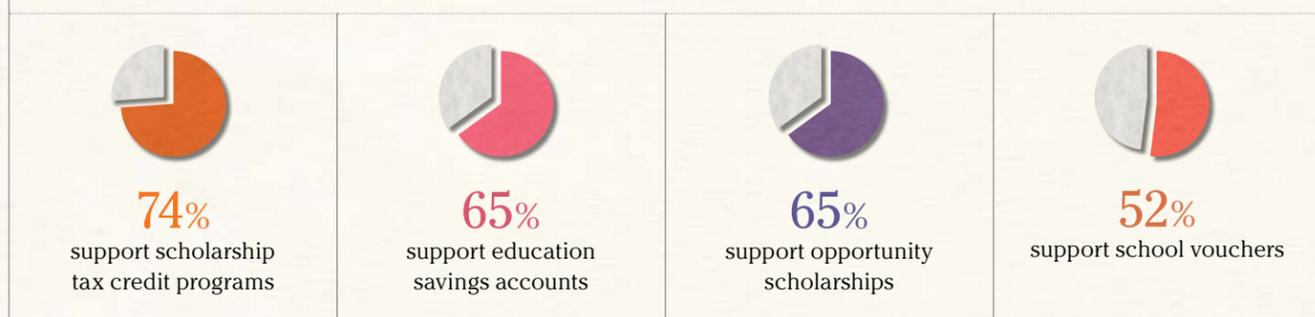


National

AFC released its second annual National School Choice Poll in early 2016. Beck Research conducted the poll of 1,100 likely voters



All forms of private school choice received majority support:



Arizona

The survey of 500 likely voters was conducted by Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research Group



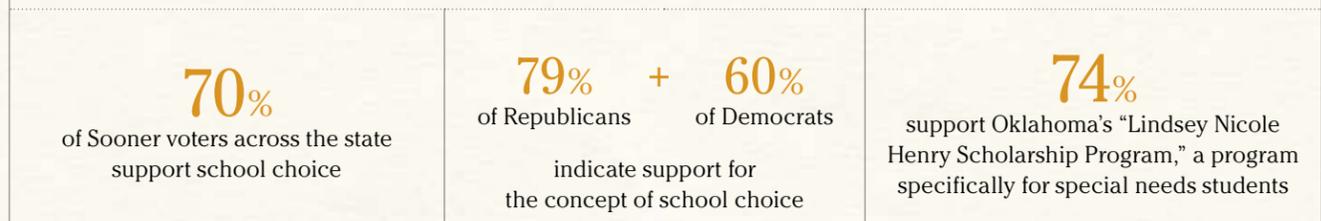
Nevada

The poll of 600 likely voters was conducted by The Tarrance Group



Oklahoma

Cole Hargrave Snodgrass and Associates, Inc. conducted the poll of 500 likely voters



Demographics

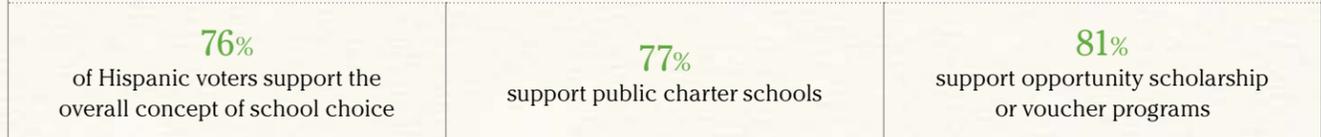
African American Voters

In partnership with the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO), 2,400 black voters in Alabama, Louisiana, New Jersey and Tennessee were surveyed by JMC Analytics and Polling



Hispanic Voters

In AFC's National School Choice Poll, conducted by Beck Research



Millennial Voters

In AFC's National School Choice Poll, conducted by Beck Research, we examined the views of millennial voters on school choice policies. Overall, results show that the younger generation strongly supports school choice policies and innovation in education



NATIONAL NEWS

THE DAILY BEAST



Democratic Candidates Won't Directly Talk to Voters

By Campbell Brown and Kevin P. Chavous
October 8, 2015

"Rather than risk having Democratic candidates speak about education reform, perhaps celebrate the teachers unions' positions or perhaps break with the teachers unions, the unions maneuvered behind the scenes to actively discourage candidates from participating."

"In the end, while the NEA and AFT may claim a momentary victory by silencing discussion and debate on education reform, ultimately they will continue to lose the battle with public opinion."

WASHINGTON EXAMINER



Poll: School choice emerges as huge issue, Romney over Bush 32%-18%

By Paul Bedard, January 22, 2015

"The emergence of school choice as a key political demand could help shape the upcoming primaries."

POLITICO



GOP slate confronts K-12 education

By Caitlin Emma, August 19, 2015

"For the first time this presidential election cycle, six Republican candidates will be forced to talk about education — an issue that has taken a backseat to others for the last few election cycles."

FORBES



Kicking Off National School Choice Week with 9 Things You Need to Know

By Maureen Sullivan, January 26, 2015

"1. The findings from the American Federation for Children poll released last week indicate that 69% of Americans support the concept of school choice, 63% support private school choice in the form of vouchers and 76% support public-school charters."

FOX BUSINESS NEWS



GOP Candidates Tackle Education For First Time

By Serena Elavia, August 18, 2015

"The summits are the first of their kind and are the result of a joint partnership between the non-profit, non-partisan, education news website The 74 Million and the American Federation for Children (AFC), a school-choice advocacy organization."

HEARTLAND



Survey: Black Voters Want More School Choice Options

By Heather Kays, November 24, 2015

"According to the survey, more than 90 percent of black voters surveyed say a candidate's views on education are important to them before they vote."

STATE NEWS

ALABAMA



Alabama Accountability Act upheld by state Supreme Court

By Mike Cason, March 2, 2015

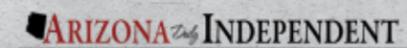
NEVADA



Nevada Expands School Choice with Adoption of Savings Accounts

By Caroline Porter, June 3, 2015

ARIZONA



SB1332 Passes Expanding School Choice on the State's Tribal Lands

February 21, 2015

OKLAHOMA



OK Lawmaker Pushes for School Choice Savings Accounts

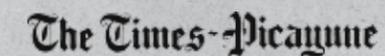
By Arthur Kane, January 28, 2015

LOUISIANA



A Decade of Improving Schools Following a Disaster

By Ann Duplessis, August 28, 2015



Bobby Jindal Champions School Vouchers in New Orleans on 'Farewell' Tour

December 15, 2015

TENNESSEE



Governor Haslam Signs School Choice Bill for Special Needs Students in Tennessee

June 10, 2015



2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has been filled with many triumphs. Programs have been added and expanded all over the country. Recent polls continue to show strong support for educational choice across all demographics, and voters have rewarded legislators who support educational choice at the polls.

As momentum for the education revolution continues, students will have even more opportunities to succeed!

WHAT LEADERS HAVE TO SAY



“Allow parents...the greatest power you can have, to choose the destiny of your child.”

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) November 4, 2015, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs



“I really believe that where education has to provide this equal opportunity is for low-income families. If they want to have a choice, we ought to make it possible for them to have that choice.”

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) November 4, 2015, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs



“I propose that we allow school charters, school choice, vouchers, competition. Competition breeds excellence and encourages innovation. And boy, we really need innovation.”

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) July 2014, National Urban League Conference



“Allowing parents to become the ultimate and final arbiter and decision maker on where their kids are getting their education is, for me, deeply empowering. It's immoral that the only people in America who have no control over where their kids go to school are low-income parents.”

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) November 11, 2015, Interview with The 74

SUCCESS STORIES

Facts and figures all play a role when sharing the story of educational choice; however, it's the firsthand accounts from students whose lives have been touched by a program that paint the clearest picture of the impact of educational choice. Here are just a few stories from children who are taking advantage of these life-changing educational opportunities.



BYANCA

GARRASCO

ARIZONA'S EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT PROGRAM

6 YEARS OLD

Byanca was born with Down syndrome and has issues with her speech. Her mother, Ramona Carrasco, wanted to send Byanca to a private school so she could have the special attention she needs. Ramona was concerned that her daughter would have difficulty adjusting to attending school, both academically and socially.

She turned to Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program for the help she needed to get Byanca into a great private school.

"I wanted Byanca to be around and hang out with kids that speak well because Byanca learns by imitation," says Ramona. "During the first two months that she attended her new school, she started speaking more, and her words were clear in both English and Spanish."

Ramona is very grateful that Arizona embraces school choice and that her child with special needs has various options through the ESA program.

"[The] ESA is an excellent program. I never thought I could have my daughter in a private school, but thanks to the ESA program, we now have that opportunity!"

JALEN

ROBINSON

LOUISIANA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

12 YEARS OLD

Jalen is a perfect example of how needs can change for a student during his or her scholastic career. Jalen attended public school starting in kindergarten. She liked the school she attended and was successfully able to work through a problem preventing her from properly focusing on her schoolwork. Unfortunately, Jalen had to switch schools after fourth grade. Her family moved, so she then had to attend a new public school in her district.

"From the first day at the new public school, everything went downhill [and] I started failing," said Jalen. "Luckily my mom found out about Good Shepherd School and the Louisiana Scholarship Program to help her pay my tuition there."

Jalen's mother enrolled her in Good Shepherd School along with her brother and sister three years ago. At Good Shepherd, she started thriving in her learning environment, and most importantly, she started succeeding.

"Since coming to Good Shepherd, I have been encouraged to believe in myself and believe in my ability to do the work required of me, so my grades have improved," says Jalen. "I have grown as a person and I love Good Shepherd with all my heart. Thank you for making it possible for me to get a great education and believe in myself."



NIANG



GEORGIA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

15 YEARS OLD

Niang and her family came to the U.S. as Burmese refugees fleeing their country during a violent and deadly civil war. Now living in low-income refugee housing in Clarkston, Georgia, Niang's parents work day and night in a factory so Niang and her siblings can focus on school.

She is able to attend a high-performing private school thanks to the Georgia Tax Credit Scholarship Program. As a student at the Atlanta Adventist Academy, she loves her classes and is thankful every day for the chance to change her life and help her family.

"When we were back in our country, we could never dream of being here in the United States of America," said Niang. "We are living beyond our dreams in America. We can attend a private school, and that's more than a blessing."

Niang is interested in the medical field and says she will likely become a nurse. At Atlanta Adventist, the faculty knows that an important part of working with Niang is helping her believe in herself so she can reach her full potential.

ASHLI JOHNSON



D.C. OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

7 YEARS OLD

Ashli and her mother Katherine plan their days around their top priority, Ashli's education. They live in low-income housing in Washington, D.C. and travel across the city to get to Lowell School, where Ashli attends, each day.

"I don't even let Ashli play outside in our neighborhood, so I wouldn't want her attending school at our neighborhood school," says Katherine.

Katherine typically spends four hours a day on the road getting her daughter to and from her private school but feels like this is the best investment of her time and limited resources.

"There's nothing more important to me than Ashli's education," adds Katherine. "I choose to go without less important things, like getting my hair or nails done, in order to pay expenses for Ashli's education."

Ashli is able to attend Lowell School because of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program and the tuition assistance the program provides. She never forgets how fortunate she is to have this opportunity or how much her mom sacrifices for her, so she works hard every day at school.

"Ashli is a great student, gets good grades and even started a nature club at school to help care for the plants and animals around her," adds Katherine.

"Lowell is helping expose Ashli to a different environment than what is surrounding our home and that has been so important to me."



CHAMPIONS FOR CHOICE

ATHLETES AND EDUCATIONAL CHOICE



Created in 2012, AFC's Champions for Choice in Education initiative has successfully brought attention to educational choice at a national level by using the voices of athletes and celebrities to carry the powerful message and stories of school choice.

This year, our ambassadors focused on spreading the message nationally and in specific states to facilitate program implementation efforts. Champions for Choice recorded television and radio PSAs or were featured in advertisements reaching out to parents and giving them information about the educational options available in their state.

Champions for Choice also held another successful Pre-ESPYS celebration in Los Angeles in 2015. Celebrities interested in hearing more about educational choice gathered to learn about AFC's mission and hear from Arizona scholarship

student, Nydia Salazar, who shared her school choice success story. The event was another great celebration of the students whose lives have been changed thanks to school choice options across the country.



Jalen Rose



Jalen Rose, ABC and ESPN analyst, continued to have a strong presence in the educational choice movement in 2015. The operator of his own public charter school in Detroit, Rose was honored at AFC's 2015 Pre-ESPYS celebration for his work and commitment to educational choice and also was featured in the "Every Child Matters" PSA.

Lisa Leslie



WNBA legend and four-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Leslie kicked off the year by giving the keynote address at Arizona's capitol rally during National School Choice Week. She then represented AFC at Radio Row at the 2015 Super Bowl discussing the big game and educational choice. Leslie also visited Indianapolis schools that participate in the state's school choice programs and reached out to coalition partners at the Indianapolis Urban League during a luncheon. She is also a featured member in AFC's new PSA, "Every Child Matters."

Desmond Howard



Desmond Howard, football great and ABC/ESPN analyst, spoke at the kickoff rally of 2015 National School Choice Week and took part in a Wisconsin implementation campaign for the statewide program. AFC worked with its allies at School Choice Wisconsin to create a targeted campaign informing parents about the educational options available in their state through a video PSA with Howard.

Antawn Jamison



Antawn Jamison, NBA All-Star and All-American for the UNC Tar Heels, was featured in a PSA that AFC worked on with its state partner in North Carolina, Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina. Jamison promoted the North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship Program, and urged parents to see if their family qualified to receive a scholarship for their child to attend a private school.

Shaquille O'Neal



Shaquille O'Neal is a featured member in AFC's PSA "Every Child Matters" and a strong supporter of quality educational options for all children.

THE FIGHT FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

2015 SUMMIT REVIEW

As Louisiana celebrated 20 years of educational choice in the state, AFC kicked off its sixth annual National Policy Summit in New Orleans! Education reformers from across the country gathered to hear from thought leaders in the school choice movement and share ideas.

This 2015 Summit theme was The Fight for Educational Choice, which exemplifies our movement's commitment to keep fighting and working on behalf of all students desperately seeking quality educational options nationwide.

Featured speakers included Governor Scott Walker, former Senator Joseph Lieberman, Governor Bobby Jindal, journalist and education reform advocate Campbell Brown, Champion for Choice Lisa Leslie, Louisiana State Superintendent John White and Acton Academy co-founder Jeff Sandefer.

The conference also featured interesting panel discussions on innovation in education, messaging school choice in the media and in the community, the powerful educational choice story of New Orleans, and how to raise awareness of school choices with parents among others.

Each year that attendees gather for the Summit, the momentum for the education revolution grows. As the energy continues to build, we look forward to gathering together again in 2016 in Washington, D.C. where we will "Teach Choice!"



"Fight for the choice for low income parents, not just for the schoolhouse, but beyond."

— Louisiana State Superintendent, John White

"This shouldn't be a Republican or Democratic issue, this should be an American issue."

— Gov. Bobby Jindal



"Whether it's a traditional public school ... a choice school, a charter school, a private school, a home school, a virtual school environment, we need to provide as many options as possible." — Gov. Scott Walker

"We're doing everything we can to give a voice to those who don't have it—the children."

— Campbell Brown



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 90 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 scholarship program for students in New Orleans 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 Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program, the first of its kind in the nation.

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 are enacted, and nine programs were expanded, improved or strengthened.

Highlights included Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Louisiana and Wisconsin.

2014

Two new private school choice programs are enacted making it 41 programs across the country.

Five other states (Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Ohio) expanded their choice programs.

As result of the momentum of the parental choice movement, numerous lawsuits were filed by opponents against programs in several states.

2015

With four states enacting their first school choice programs and a total of eight new programs, 2015 is one of the strongest years for the educational choice revolution.

New states included Arkansas, Montana, Nevada and Tennessee. In addition to the states listed above (and the two programs enacted in Nevada), Mississippi, South Carolina and Wisconsin all enacted new programs.

This momentum comes on the heels of a strong 2014 election, where parents and voters rose up nationwide to reward pro-school choice candidates.

and more GREAT things to come...



SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS BY STATE

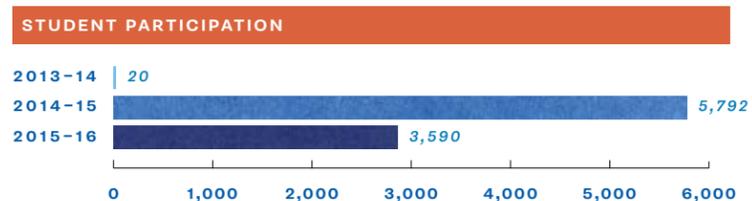


Alabama: TAX CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means-tested and failing schools 	<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with health and safety codes Conduct criminal background checks on employees Be accredited by state-recognized accrediting agency within three years Demonstrate financial viability if it is to receive \$50,000 or more in scholarships Annually administer the state achievement test or nationally recognized norm-referenced tests to scholarship students and provide test results to the state Provide graduation rates of scholarship students to the state Maintain website that describes the school, the instructional program of the school, and the tuition and mandatory fees charged by the school
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family income cannot exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$44,863 in 2015–16) Student must be zoned to attend a public school designated as failing (labeled as failing by the State Department of Education or is in the lowest 6 percent of public schools on the state assessment); once a student receives a scholarship, he or she remains eligible regardless of whether or not he or she remains zoned to attend a failing school After July 31 of each year, SGOs may award unaccounted scholarship funds to students whose family incomes do not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16) whether or not they are assigned to a failing school A renewing student's family income can increase to up to 275 percent of the federal poverty level (\$66,688 for a family of four in 2015–16) 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 95 percent of contributions for scholarships Conduct criminal background checks on all employees and board members Make scholarships portable to any qualifying school Spend a portion of expenditures on scholarships for low-income students (family income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level, \$44,863 for a family of four) equal to the percentage of low-income students in the county where the SGO expends the majority of its scholarships Ensure that at least 75 percent of first-time recipients of scholarships were not enrolled in a private school during the previous year Submit annually to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on accepted contributions Data on scholarships awarded, including the amount awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price lunch program, the number of scholarships for students zoned to attend failing public schools, the percentage of first-time scholarship recipients who were enrolled in a public school the previous year, the number of scholarship recipients who were previously enrolled in private schools, and the schools enrolling scholarship students and the funds those schools receive (must be submitted quarterly) Financial audit performed by a certified public accountant Policies and procedures used to determine scholarship eligibility Verification that no SGO policy or procedure restricts parental choice Verification of how priority is given to students zoned to attend a failing school Expend scholarship funds by the end of the academic year ending within the calendar year immediately following receipt of the donation May not enter into agreements with participating schools that restrict the schools to only accept scholarship students from a particular SGO and reject all other eligible students <p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6,000 (grades K–5) \$8,000 (grades 6–8) \$10,000 (grades 9–12) <p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 percent of donation <p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 percent of tax liability, up to \$50,000 for individuals and couples 50 percent of tax liability for corporations <p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30 million <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013

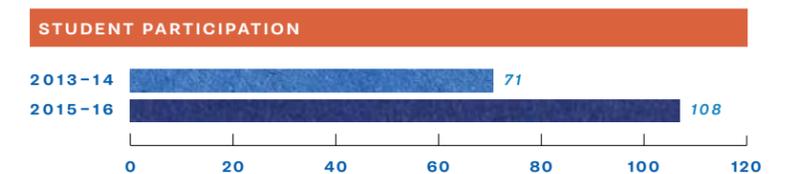
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	3,590
Schools Participating	164
SGOs Operating	7
2014 Donations	\$13,413,510



Alabama: PARENT REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual tuition tax credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failing schools 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 percent of average state per-pupil funding Tuition and fees
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must be 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 listed three or more times in the past six years in the lowest 6 percent of public schools on the state assessment) 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013
<p>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification that the student was enrolled in or assigned to attend a failing school, certification that the 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 	

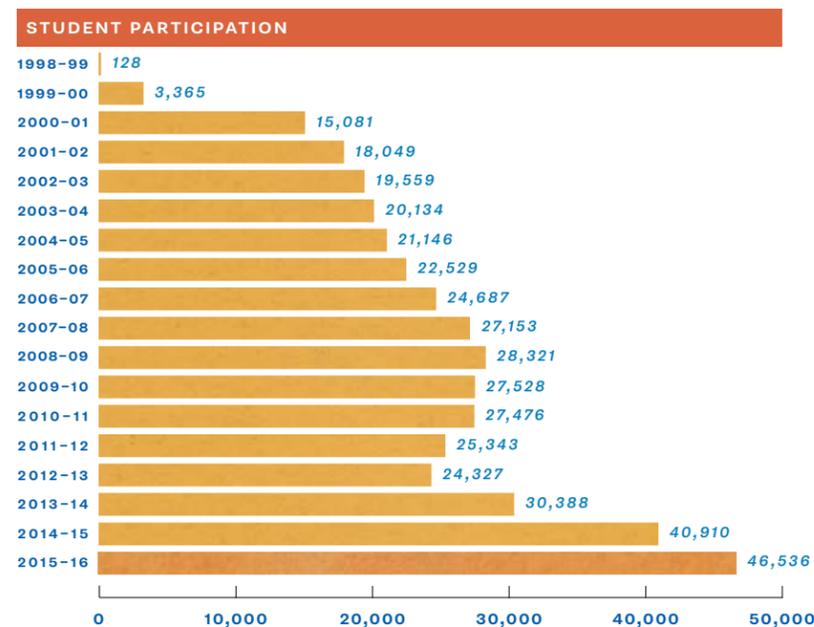
DATA UPDATE	
Taxpayers Participating	108
Tax Credits Refunded	\$233,988





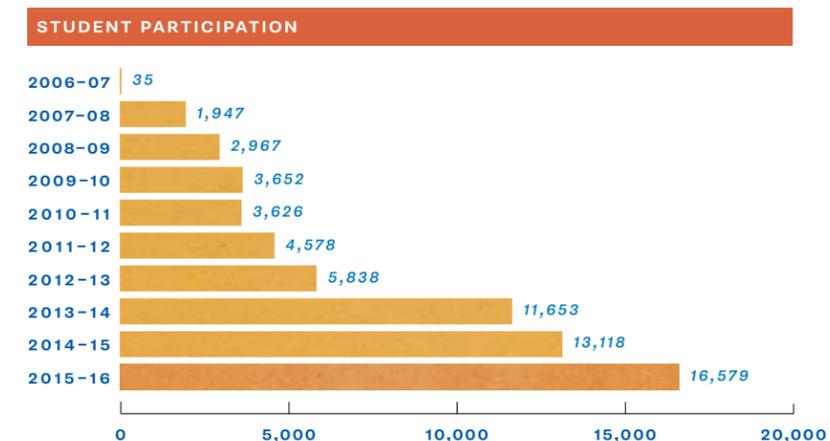
PROGRAM TYPE • Scholarship tax credit—individual	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • Tuition only
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • None specified in the law • Requirements may be determined by School Tuition Organizations (STO) • Private school students are also eligible	TAX CREDIT VALUE • 100 percent of donation
	DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP • \$1,034 single • \$2,062 married couple
SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships • Make scholarships available for more than one school • May allow donors to recommend student beneficiaries but shall not award, designate or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of donor recommendations • Cannot exchange recommendations of student beneficiaries with other donors • Report annually to the state: – 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 (\$44,863 and \$82,935 for a family of four in 2015–16), 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	STATEWIDE CAP • None
	YEAR ENACTED • 1997
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS • Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety codes	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	46,536
Schools Participating	344
STOs Operating	51
2015 Donations	\$92,504,312



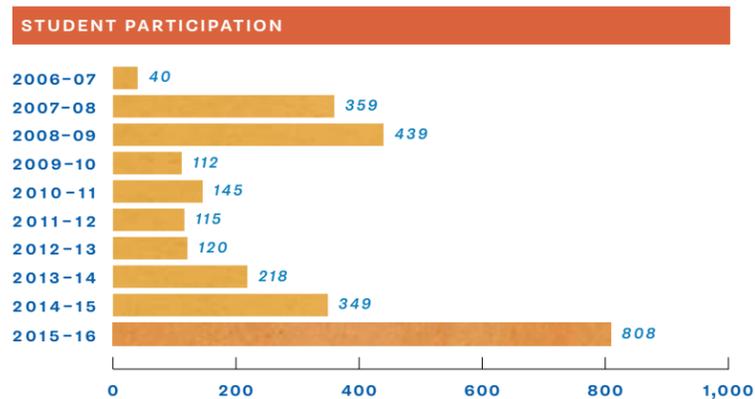
PROGRAM TYPE • Scholarship tax credit—corporate – Means-tested	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • \$5,100 (grades K–8) • \$6,400 (grades 9–12) • Caps increase by \$100 each year
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • Family income cannot exceed 185 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$82,997 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Student must have attended public school the previous year or be entering kindergarten	TAX CREDIT VALUE • 100 percent of donation
	DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP • None
SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships • Make scholarships available for more than one school • Must allow the state to verify that scholarships are awarded to students attending a qualified school • Report annually to the state: – 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	STATEWIDE CAP • \$42.99 million (FY 2015) • 20 percent annual increase each year
	YEAR ENACTED • 2006
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS • Comply with state private school regulations, including nondiscrimination and health and safety codes • Require teachers to be fingerprinted	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	16,579
Schools Participating	239
STOs Operating	51
2015 Donations	\$42,998,170



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special needs and foster children 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition of private school 90 percent of the cost to send the child to public school
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who received vouchers under Arizona's two previous voucher programs (for foster children and students with disabilities) receive priority in scholarships Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been placed in foster care at any time before the student graduates from high school or obtains a GED, or Be 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 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 percent of donation
	<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5 million
<p>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships Make scholarships available for more than one school Allow the state to verify that scholarships are awarded to students attending a qualified school Report annually to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	

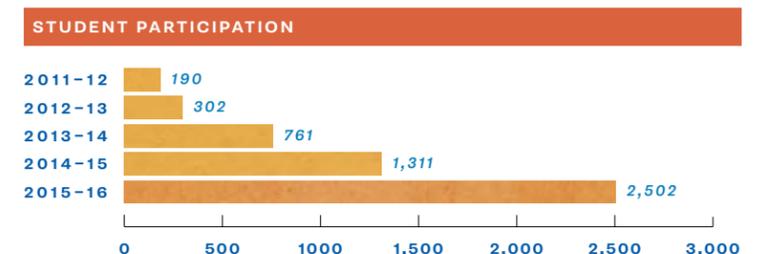
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	808
Schools Participating	136
STOs Operating	51
2015 Donations	\$5,031,920



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education savings account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special needs and foster care Active-duty military families Failing schools Students living on Native American reservations 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 percent of the charter school per-pupil base funding (takes into account grade and disability)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be identified as a child with a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or by a school district, or be eligible to receive special education services from a school district under state law and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or Have attended a public school or school district that received a "D" or an "F" on the state accountability report card, or Have a parent who is an active-duty member of the U.S. military or was killed in the line of duty, or Be adopted from the state foster care system or placed with a family and has a case plan of adoption, or Be a sibling of a current ESA student, or Live on a Native American reservation Student must have attended public school as a full-time student for 100 days prior to the fiscal year and transferred to a qualified private school, participated in the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program in the previous year, received a scholarship under Lexie's Law, or be entering Kindergarten 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 percent of the previous school year's total traditional public and public charter school student enrollment
	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific program appropriation
	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011
<p>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must sign an agreement to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an education in the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science Not enroll student in a school district or charter school Release the school district from all obligations to educate the student Not accept a scholarship under any of Arizona's tax credit scholarship programs Use the money deposited in the empowerment account for purposes specified in the law and spend accumulated ESA dollars on basic education subjects 	
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot discriminate Cannot share, refund or rebate any empowerment account monies with the parent or student 	

DATA UPDATE	
Accounts Awarded	2,502
Schools Participating	134
2015 Expenditures	\$28,217,709*

*AFC Growth Fund estimate





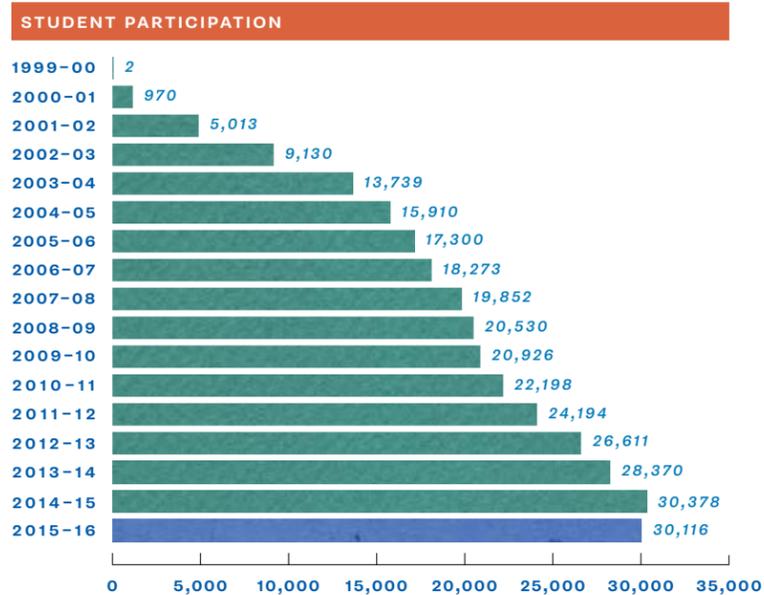
<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Foundation funding amount for the current school year – Tuition and fees of a private school
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Have an Individualized Education program (IEP) in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act – Have attended public school for at least one full academic year; dependents of active-duty military are exempt from this requirement – Have been accepted for admission into an eligible private school 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Board of Education adopted a rule that limits the program to 100 students for the first year of implementation (the 2016–17 school year)
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet accreditation requirements set by the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education as providing services to severely disabled individuals • Demonstrate fiscal soundness by having been in operation for one school year or provide the department with a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that the private school is insured and that it has sufficient capital or credit to operate in the upcoming school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In lieu of a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter may be filed with the department • Comply with the federal antidiscrimination provisions of 42 U.S.C. §2000d • Meet state and local health and safety requirements • Be accountable academically to parents for meeting the educational needs of the student • Administer annually a nationally recognized norm-referenced test as established by the State Board of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A student with an IEP that provides for an exemption to standardized testing is not required to take the test; however, schools shall annually prepare a portfolio that provides information on a student’s progress to the student’s parents if a student is exempt from standardized testing • Comply with all state laws and regulations governing private schools • Adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary procedures before expulsion of a participating student 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None specified in the law
	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015

PROGRAM UPDATE

Students are slated to first participate in the program during the 2016–17 school year.

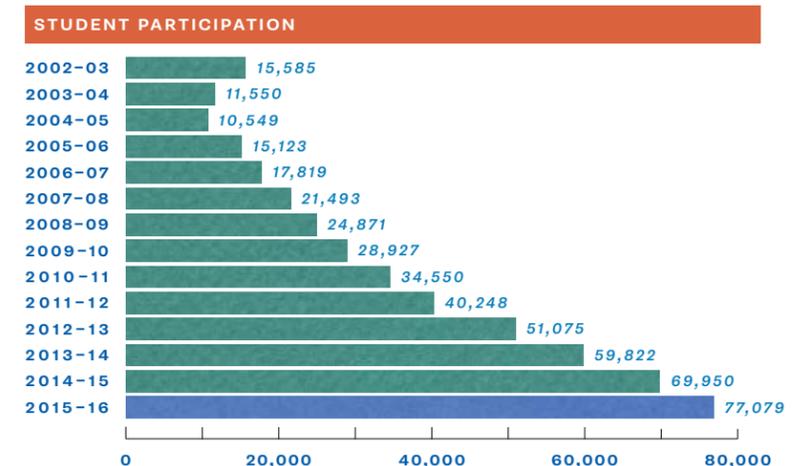
<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Amount of public school funding students would have received – Tuition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

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	30,116
Schools Participating	1,342
2015 Expenditures	\$357,000,000



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship tax credit—corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5,677 for private school scholarship • \$500 scholarship covering transportation to another public school • The scholarship cap for 2014–15 was 80 percent of the per-pupil school funding formula. The cap increases 4 percent in any year in which the cap is raised until the cap reaches 82 percent
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family income cannot exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Student must be placed, or have been placed in the previous year, in foster or out-of-home care • A renewing student's family income can increase to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$48,500 for a family of four) and he or she is still eligible for a full scholarship; renewing students with family incomes between 200 and 230 percent of the federal poverty level (\$55,775 for a family of four) are eligible for a partial scholarship • Beginning in the 2016–17 school year, a student with a family income of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible for a full scholarship, while students with family incomes between 200 and 260 percent of the federal poverty level (\$63,050 for a family of four in 2015–16) will be eligible for partial scholarships; however, students at 185 percent of the federal poverty level, renewing students and students in foster care or out-of-home care will get priority 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 percent of donation <p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 percent of state tax liability <p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$447.3 million (2015–16) • Cap is allowed to increase by 25 percent in any year after 90 percent of the cap is reached
<p>SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION (SFO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use at least 97 percent of contributions for scholarships • SFOs with fewer than three years worth of audits must use 100 percent of donations for scholarships • Make scholarships available for more than one school • Submit to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Financial and compliance audit performed by certified public accountant – Quarterly reports on the number of scholarship recipients and participating schools 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be approved by the state • Submit to the state annual sworn compliance reports regarding all local and state health and safety codes • Comply with the federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. §2000d • Teachers and other school personnel working with scholarship recipients must undergo federal background checks • Teachers must have a bachelor's degree, three years of teaching experience or special expertise • Schools in operation less than three years must obtain a surety bond or letter of credit to cover the value of the scholarship payments for one quarter • Any school receiving more than \$250,000 in scholarship money must provide financial reporting to the state • 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 	

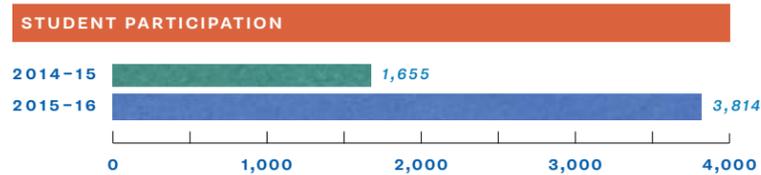
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	77,079
Schools Participating	1,540
SFOs Operating	2
2015 Expenditures	\$447,265,625





<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education savings account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with all requirements of private schools participating in the John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program or the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship • Provide SFO with all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and student's fee schedules • Be academically accountable to the parent by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Annually providing to the parent a written explanation of the student's progress – Annually administering, for students participating in the program in grades 3–10, one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Florida Department of Education or the statewide assessments; a participating private school shall report a student's scores to the parent; students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must have been diagnosed with one of the following: autism spectrum disorder, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Spina bifida, Williams syndrome, an intellectual disability (severe cognitive impairment) or be considered a high-risk 3- or 4-year-old child or be in kindergarten with a developmental delay in cognition, language or physical development • Student must have either an Individual Education Plan (IEP) from a Florida school district or a formal diagnosis from a licensed physician or psychologist 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 percent of the amount of public school funding that the student would have received based on a matrix level that assigns the student to support Level III of services
<p>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent must sign an agreement with the scholarship funding organization (SFO) annually to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Affirm that the student is enrolled in a program that meets regular school attendance requirements – Use program funds only for authorized purposes – Ensure that the student takes all appropriate standardized assessments, either the state assessment test or a nationally recognized norm-referenced test – Affirm that the parent will not transfer any college saving funds to another beneficiary – Affirm that the parent will not take possession of any funding provided by the state – Affirm that a portfolio of records and materials will be maintained for two years and be made available for inspection by the school district 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION (SFO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program • Determine student eligibility • Provide the Department of Education with information on the student to enable the department to report the student for funding • Establish and maintain separate accounts for each eligible student • Verify qualifying expenditures • Return any unused funds to the department when the student is no longer eligible for a personal learning scholarship account 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$55 million for 2015–16 • \$73.3 million appropriated for 2016–17 <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014

DATA UPDATE	
Accounts Awarded	3,814
Schools Participating	UNKNOWN
SFOs Operating	2
2015 Expenditures	\$41,400,000



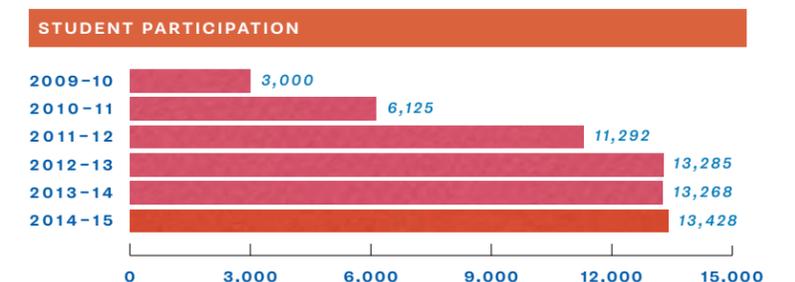
<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Amount of public school funding student would have received – Tuition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

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	3,400
Schools Participating	261
2013 Expenditures	\$13,649,039



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 percent of state and local per-pupil funding
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have attended public school the previous year or be entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten or first grade 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 percent of donation
<p>STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SSO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships • Make scholarships available for more than one school • Have an independent board of directors • Ensure donors cannot designate their donations to any individual student • Submit annually to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Data on accepted contributions and tax credits approved – Independent review of financial statements by a certified public accountant – Total number of students and total dollar value of scholarships awarded each year • Publicly disclose annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total number of scholarships approved – Total number and amount of donations received – Average household income of scholarship recipients 	<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000 single • \$2,500 married couple • 75 percent of corporation's state income tax liability <p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$58 million in 2014 • Increases by the annual growth of the Consumer Price Index <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be accredited or in the process of becoming accredited • Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 • Comply with all state private school regulations, including health and safety codes 	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	13,428
Schools Participating	N/A
SSOs Operating	29
2014 Donations	\$53,786,581



Indiana: CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

PROGRAM TYPE • Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • Tuition and fees
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • Family income cannot exceed 200 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$89,726 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Student must have been enrolled in public school the prior year or be entering kindergarten or have received a scholarship in the previous school year	TAX CREDIT VALUE • 50 percent of donation
SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships • Be certified by the state • Make scholarships available for more than one school • Conduct criminal background checks on all SGO employees and board members • Have an outside financial audit conducted and provide an annual report to the state	DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP • None
	STATEWIDE CAP • \$7.5 million
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS • Be accredited by a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board • Administer a nationally recognized and norm-referenced assessment to the students	YEAR ENACTED • 2009

DATA UPDATE

Scholarships Awarded	9,127
Schools Participating	N/A
SGOs Operating	5
2014 Donations	\$16,195,681

STUDENT PARTICIPATION



Indiana: CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



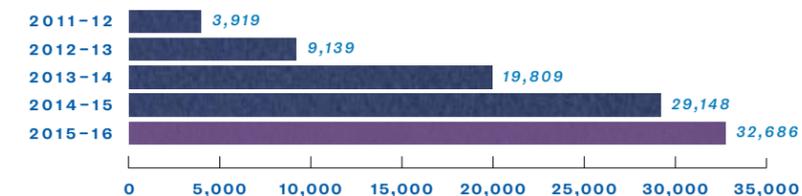
PROGRAM TYPE • Voucher – Means-tested	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • Whichever is less: – Tuition and fees of private school – 90 percent of the state tuition support amount for students with a family income not exceeding 100 percent of the required income for the free or reduced-price lunch program or 50 percent of the state tuition support amount for students with a family income not exceeding 150 percent of the required income for the free or reduced-price lunch program
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • Family income cannot exceed 100 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16) for a full scholarship • Family income cannot exceed 150 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$67,295 for a family of four) for a partial scholarship • Student must: – Have attended a public school for two semesters immediately prior to enrolling in the Choice Scholarship Program or have 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 amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$89,726 for a family of four in 2015–16) – Have attended or be zoned to attend a public school rated “F” and have a family income that cannot exceed 150 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$67,295 for a family of four) – Be a sibling 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 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$67,295 for a family of four) – Have received a voucher for the previous year and have a family income of 200 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$89,726 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 • Not discriminate on the 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 total disbursements • Administer the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP) assessment 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 • Grant the state full access to its premises for observing classroom instruction and reviewing any instructional materials and curricula • Provide civic and character education and display related historical documents	ENROLLMENT CAP • None
	PROGRAM FUNDING • No specific program appropriation
	YEAR ENACTED • 2011

DATA UPDATE

Scholarships Awarded	32,686
Schools Participating	316
2015 Expenditures	\$136,200,000*

*AFC Growth Fund estimate

STUDENT PARTICIPATION



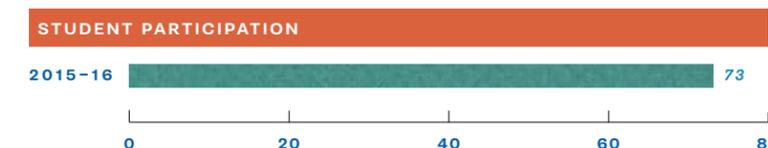
PROGRAM TYPE • Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual – Means-tested	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • Tuition only
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$72,750 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Private school students are also eligible	TAX CREDIT VALUE • 65 percent of donation DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP • None
SCHOLARSHIP TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships • Make scholarships available for more than one school • Obtain an annual review of financial statements by a public accounting firm • Submit data to the state on accepted contributions, grants awarded and participating schools	STATEWIDE CAP • \$12 million – 25 percent for corporations – 75 percent for individuals and married couples YEAR ENACTED • 2006
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS • Be accredited • Comply with federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Iowa Chapter 216 • Comply with state health and safety codes	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	10,848
Schools Participating	139
STOs Operating	12
2015 Donations	\$16,200,000



PROGRAM TYPE • Scholarship tax credit—corporate – Means-tested and failing schools	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • \$8,000
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • Family income cannot exceed 100 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$24,250 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Student must have attended a Title I Focus School or Title I Priority School (failing school) or be less than 6 years of age when first seeking a scholarship	TAX CREDIT VALUE • 70 percent of donation DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP • 100 percent of state income tax liability
SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships within 36 months of receiving the contributions • Issue a receipt prescribed by the Secretary of Revenue to any contributing taxpayer • Receive written verification from the State Board of Education that a student is eligible prior to awarding an educational scholarship for students previously enrolled in a public school • Report to the State Board of Education all students receiving a scholarship • Provide the State Board of Education a surety bond or financial information demonstrating the SGO's ability to pay the amount expected to be received during the school year, if it receives more than \$50,000 in donations • Ensure that qualified schools receiving scholarships are in compliance with the requirements of the program • Have its accounts examined and audited by a certified public accountant at the end of each calendar year for verification that the education scholarships that were awarded were distributed to the eligible students, and file a copy of the audit with the State Board of Education • Submit annually to the state (via a report approved by a certified public accountant): – Names and addresses of eligible students receiving an educational scholarship from the SGO – Total number and dollar amount of contributions received during the preceding 12-month period – Total number and dollar amount of educational scholarships awarded the preceding 12-month period to eligible students	STATEWIDE CAP • \$10 million YEAR ENACTED • 2014
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS • Must be nonpublic elementary or secondary school located in Kansas	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	73
Schools Participating	26
SGOs Operating	5
2015 Expenditures	\$108,384

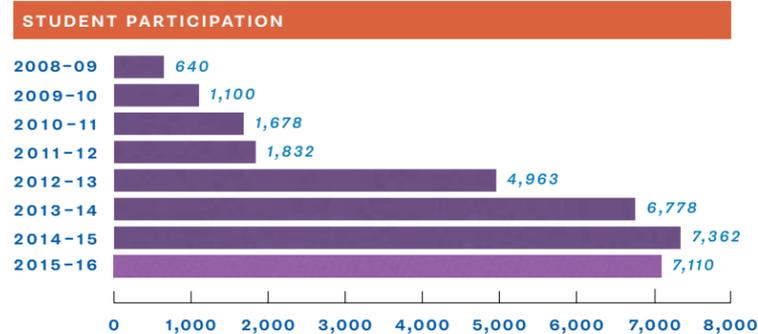




Louisiana: STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested and failing schools 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – State and local per-pupil funding (state average of \$8,882 for 2015–16) – Tuition, fees and costs associated with testing
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$60,625 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Student must have attended a public school rated “C,” “D” or “F” or be entering kindergarten 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$42 million
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private schools must be approved by the state to participate • Comply with health and safety codes • Not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin • Use an open admissions process in enrolling scholarship recipients • Administer all Louisiana state examinations required under the school and district accountability system • Receive a Scholarship Cohort Index of at least 50 to remain eligible to accept new students • Provide scholarships to no more than 20 percent of students for private schools in operation fewer than two years • Submit to the state an annual independent financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant • Conduct criminal background checks on all school employees • Maintain a curriculum of a quality at least equal to that prescribed for public schools 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	7,110
Schools Participating	119
2015 Expenditures	\$41,457,453



Louisiana: SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

<p>PROGRAM TYPE DATA UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 50 percent of state per-pupil funding – Tuition of private school
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) – Be in need of services for autism, mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health-impairment specific learning disability or traumatic brain injury – Be eligible to attend a public school – Reside in one of the six large parishes: Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Caddo, St. Tammany or Lafayette • Private school students are also eligible 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$775,000 <p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be approved by the state to participate • Comply with state nondiscrimination and health and safety requirements • Have existed and provided educational services to students with special needs for two years prior to participating in the program • Require teachers to be certified to teach special education 	

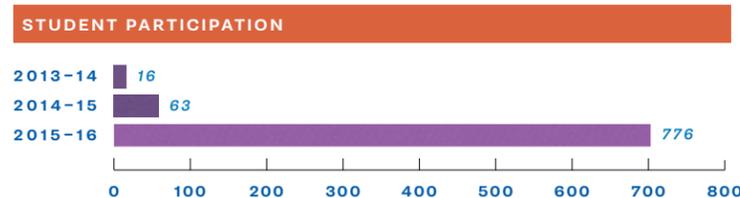
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	342
Schools Participating	23
2015 Expenditures	\$774,275



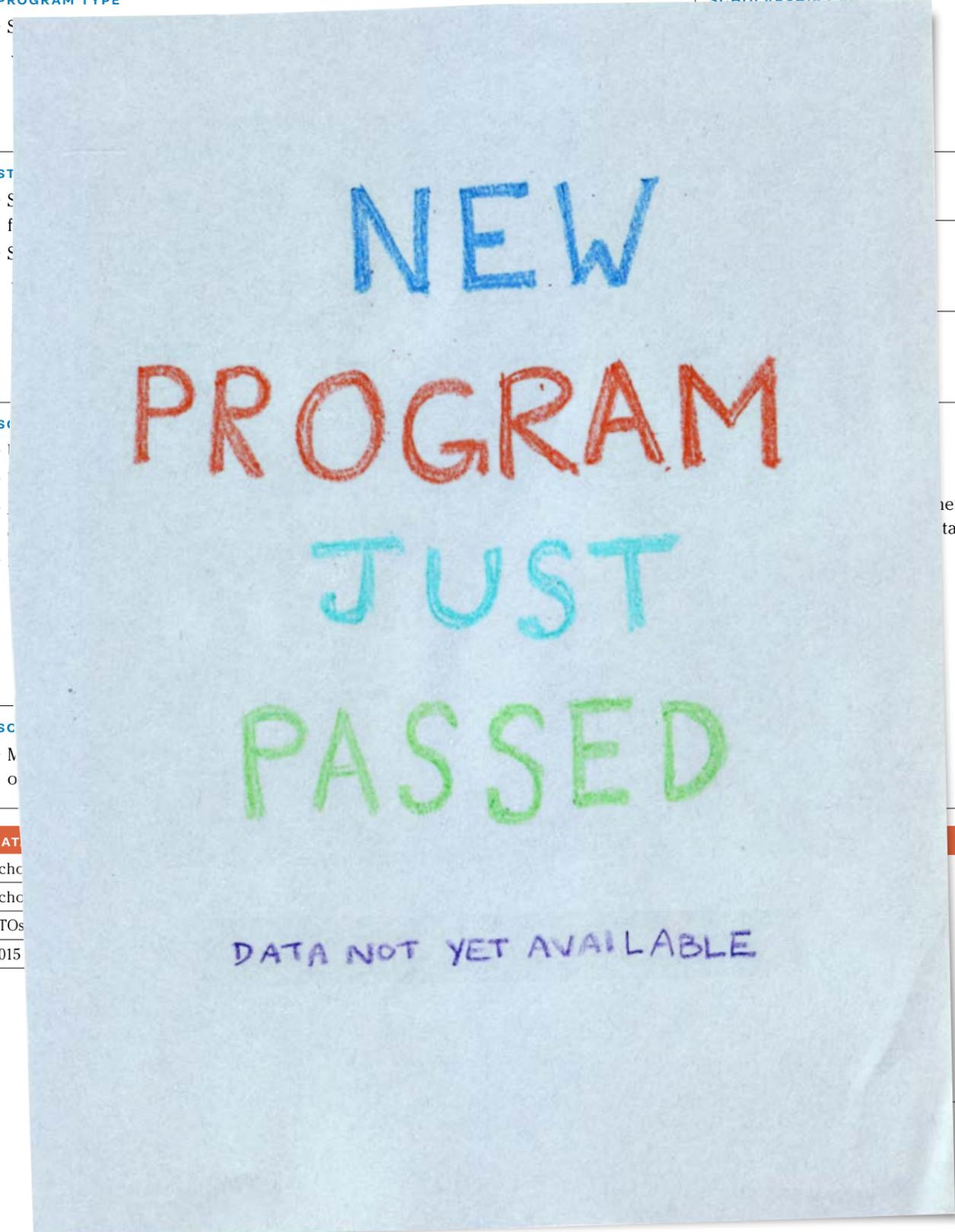


<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and fees Grades K–8 (80 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,157) Grades 9–12 (90 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,676)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$60,625 for a family of four in 2015–16) Students must have attended public school the previous year or be entering kindergarten or have received a scholarship under the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program the previous year Priority given to students who are from public schools that received a letter grade of “D” or “F,” received a scholarship in the previous year, or are siblings of participating students 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and fees Grades K–8 (80 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,157) Grades 9–12 (90 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,676)
<p>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 95 percent of contributions for scholarships Conduct background checks on school employees and board members Report annually to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number and dollar amount of contributions received Total number and dollar amount of scholarships awarded Total amount expended on administrative costs Tuition and fee amounts published by participating schools Information on contributions made by each contributor Financial information report by a certified public accountant 	<p>TAX REBATE VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95 percent of donation
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin Conduct background checks on school employees 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 Any school receiving more than \$50,000 in scholarship money must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> File financial information demonstrating its financial viability File a surety bond if in operation for five years or less 	<p>DONOR REBATE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	776
Schools Participating	104
STOs Operating	3
2014 Rebates Issued	\$221,161



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and fees Grades K–8 (80 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,157) Grades 9–12 (90 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,676)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$60,625 for a family of four in 2015–16) Students must have attended public school the previous year or be entering kindergarten or have received a scholarship under the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program the previous year Priority given to students who are from public schools that received a letter grade of “D” or “F,” received a scholarship in the previous year, or are siblings of participating students 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and fees Grades K–8 (80 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,157) Grades 9–12 (90 percent of average state per-pupil funding: approximately \$4,676)
<p>SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (STO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 95 percent of contributions for scholarships Conduct background checks on school employees and board members Report annually to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number and dollar amount of contributions received Total number and dollar amount of scholarships awarded Total amount expended on administrative costs Tuition and fee amounts published by participating schools Information on contributions made by each contributor Financial information report by a certified public accountant 	<p>TAX REBATE VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95 percent of donation
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin Conduct background checks on school employees 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 Any school receiving more than \$50,000 in scholarship money must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> File financial information demonstrating its financial viability File a surety bond if in operation for five years or less 	<p>DONOR REBATE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012



DATE
Scholarships Awarded
Schools Participating
STOs Operating
2014 Rebates Issued

Mississippi: DYSLEXIA THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP

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

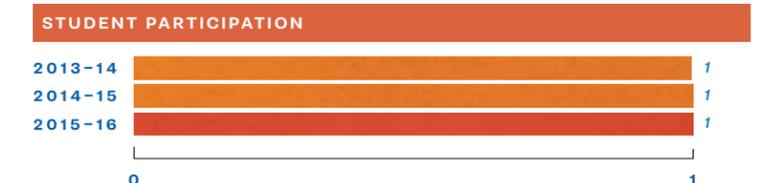
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	149
Schools Participating	3
2015 Expenditures	\$732,783



Mississippi: MISSISSIPPI SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH SPEECH-LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS PROGRAM

<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 percent of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program base student cost (state portion of per-pupil funding)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be entering grades K–6 – Be evaluated and diagnosed with a speech-language impairment – Have previously attended a public school or state-accredited special purpose school that emphasizes instruction in speech-language therapy and intervention 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific program appropriation <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 • Annually provide the parents of scholarship students a written explanation of the student's progress • Conduct criminal background checks on employees • 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 	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	1
Schools Participating	1
2015 Expenditures	N/A





<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education savings account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6,500 for 2015–16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This amount will increase or decrease by the same proportion as the base student cost is increased or decreased
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must have an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) within the 18 months prior to receiving an ESA 	
<p>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent must sign an agreement promising to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an organized, appropriate educational program with measurable annual goals Document his or her participating student's disability Not enroll his or her participating student in a public school or participate in the state's Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship or the Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship Acknowledge as part of the agreement that the participating student has no individual entitlement to a free appropriate public education from his or her home school district, including special education and related services, for as long as the student is participating in the program Parents must use program funds only for authorized purposes Every three years after initial enrollment in the program, a parent of a participating student must document that the student continues to be identified by the school district, a federal or state government agency, or a licensed physician or psychologist as a child with a disability as defined by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1401(3)) 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 students in 2015–16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New enrollment is limited to 500 additional students each year thereafter <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None specified in the law
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be accredited by a state or regional accrediting agency or be approved/licensed by the State Department of Education Comply with the nondiscrimination policies set forth in 42 U.S.C. §1981 Provide parents with details of the school's programs, qualifications, experience and capacities to serve students with special needs Comply with all health and safety laws or codes that apply to nonpublic schools Hold a valid occupancy permit if required by the school's municipality Have no public record of fraud or malfeasance Offer participating students the option of taking a nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement test Conduct criminal background checks on employees and exclude from employment any person not permitted by state law to work in a nonpublic school or anyone who might reasonably pose a threat to the safety of students 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	286
Schools Participating	13
2015 Expenditures	N/A



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 percent of per-pupil average of total public school expenditures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, an SSO's average scholarship for an academic year cannot exceed 30 percent of the per-pupil average
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montana residents between the ages of 5 and 18 Private school students are also eligible 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 percent
<p>STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SSO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships Cannot restrict or reserve scholarships for use at a particular school/education provider Pay out contributions in the form of scholarships within three years after receiving them Have an annual fiscal review done by an independent certified public accountant that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number and dollar value of individual and corporate contributions Total number and dollar value of scholarships obligated to eligible students Total number and dollar value of scholarships awarded to eligible students Maintain separate accounts for scholarship funds and operating funds 	<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$150 <p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3 million Cap is allowed to increase by 10 percent in any year after 100 percent of the cap is reached via preapproval of donations by the Department of Revenue
<p>SCHOOL (QUALIFIED EDUCATION PROVIDER) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be accredited, have applied for accreditation or be provisionally accredited by a state, regional or national accreditation organization or be a non-accredited provider or tutor that has informed the child's parents in writing that the provider is not accredited and is not seeking accreditation Administer a nationally recognized standardized assessment test or criterion-referenced test and make the results available to the child's parents Administer a nationally recognized standardized assessment for all 8th and 11th grade students, and provide the overall scores on a publicly accessible private website or provide the composite results of the test to the office of public instruction for posting on its website Satisfy the health and safety requirements prescribed by law for private schools in Montana 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015

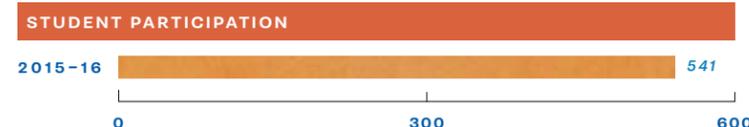
PROGRAM UPDATE

Donors were unable to make donations and claim tax credits until January 2016.



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit— corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$7,755 for fiscal year 2015–16 Increases by the annual growth of the Consumer Price Index
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$72,750 for a family of four in 2015–16) Private school students are also eligible 	
<p>SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot own or operate any school that receives money under the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program Use at least 95 percent of contributions for scholarships Make scholarships available for more than one school Cannot limit scholarships to specific students Submit to the Department of Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total number and dollar amount of the donations, gifts and grants received by the scholarship organization during the preceding calendar year The total number of students to whom the scholarship organization granted scholarships during the preceding calendar year The total dollar amount of the scholarships made during the preceding calendar year For each school that enrolls a student who receives a scholarship from the SO, the name and address of the school, the number of students enrolled in the school for whom the grant was made, and the total dollar amount of the scholarships provided for students enrolled in the school A copy of an audited or compiled financial statement of the scholarship organization prepared by an independent certified public accountant 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 percent <p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 percent of tax liability <p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5 million (fiscal year 2015–16) \$5.5 million (fiscal year 2016–17) For each succeeding fiscal year, an amount equal to 110 percent of the amount authorized for the preceding fiscal year
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be licensed by the Nevada Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide at least the curriculum required of Nevada public schools, 180 days of instruction and the same number of minutes of instruction per day that is required of public schools Comply with health and safety codes Submit a financial statement if the school has more than 30 students Conduct fingerprint checks for teachers and other school personnel Administer at least one nationally norm-referenced test that has been approved by the Department of Education to participating students and report the results to the Department Submit a report to the Department of Education that includes demographic information on each enrolled participating student, information on the scholarship organizations that serve those students and how the scholarship money has been used 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	541
Schools Participating	77
SOs Operating	3
2015 Expenditures	N/A



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education savings account 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 percent of the statewide average basic support per pupil for students with disabilities and students with a household income that is less than 185 of the federal poverty level (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16) 90 percent of the statewide average basic support per pupil for all other students
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must be enrolled in a Nevada public school for at least 100 days prior to receiving the education savings account 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<p>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent must sign an agreement promising that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student will receive instruction from a private school, a postsecondary education institution in the state, a program of distance education that is not offered by a public school or the Department of Education, a tutor or tutoring agency or the parent that has made an application to the State Treasurer Money in the education savings account will be expended only as authorized by law 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<p>SCHOOL (PARTICIPATING ENTITY) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post a surety bond in an amount equal to the amount reasonably expected to be paid or provide evidence that a participating entity has assets sufficient to cover the amount, if the payments made from education savings accounts will total more than \$50,000 during any school year Ensure that participating students take the state assessment in math and English language arts or a norm-referenced assessment in math and English language arts each school year and provide for value-added assessments of the results If a private school, be licensed by the Nevada Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide at least the curriculum required of Nevada public schools, 180 days of instruction and the same number of minutes of instruction per day that is required of public schools Comply with health and safety codes Submit a financial statement if the school has more than 30 students Conduct fingerprint checks for teachers and other school personnel 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015

PROGRAM UPDATE

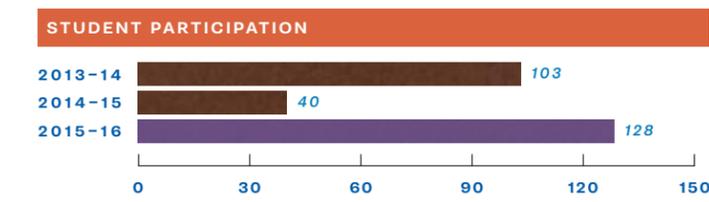
Students are slated to first participate in the program in 2016, but choice opponents have filed two lawsuits against the program. Currently, there is an injunction prohibiting it from serving students.



New Hampshire: EDUCATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2,500 (average of all SO scholarships) At least \$4,375 for students receiving special education programs or services Scholarship for homeschooled students is limited to 25 percent of \$2,500 (program's average scholarship) The scholarship cap will increase by the annual growth of the Consumer Price Index, beginning in the second year of the program
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$72,750 for a family of four in 2015–16) Private school and homeschool students are also eligible 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85 percent of donation
<p>SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships Comply with state and federal antidiscrimination and privacy laws Be registered with the director of charitable trusts Be approved by the state 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 or who received scholarships the previous year Must not restrict scholarships for use at a single school and not reserve scholarships for specific students Submit to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Total dollar amount of donations spent on administrative expenses Total carryover dollar amount Total dollar amount of contributions used and not used for scholarships Number of scholarships distributed, per school, and the dollar range of those scholarships Analysis, by ZIP code, of the place of residence for each student receiving a scholarship Aggregated results of a parental satisfaction survey, designed by the state Number of students who graduated and the number who dropped out of school 	<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 10 percent of the aggregate amount of tax credits permitted in a given year
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with state home education law 	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5.1 million Cap is allowed to increase by 25 percent in any year after 80 percent of the cap is reached
	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012

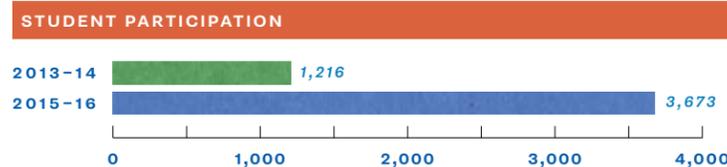
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded (Total)	128
<i>Enrolled in Private Schools</i>	108
<i>Homeschooled</i>	20
Schools Participating	26
SOs Operating	2
2015 Expenditures (Total)	\$217,199
<i>Private School Scholarship Expenditures</i>	\$210,849
<i>Homeschooler Expenditures</i>	\$6,350





<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$4,200 – Tuition and fees – 90 percent of tuition and fees for students with a family income exceeding free or reduced-price lunch program (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Have attended public school the previous year or be entering kindergarten or first grade – Be a child in foster care or have been adopted no more than one year prior to applying for the scholarship • Family income cannot exceed 133 percent of the amount required to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program (\$59,668 for a family of four in 2015–16) 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet state nondiscrimination policies • Comply with health and safety requirements • Be accredited by the State Board of Education or a national or regional accrediting agency, be an active member of the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools, or receive no funding from the state of North Carolina • Provide the state with documentation for tuition and fees charged • Conduct criminal background checks on staff members with the highest decision-making authority • Provide parents with an annual written explanation of the student's progress, including scores on standardized achievement tests • Annually administer a nationally standardized test to scholarship students and provide the test results to the state • Provide graduation rates of scholarship students to the state • Contract with a certified public accountant to perform a financial review for schools receiving more than \$300,000 in scholarship grants 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$17.6 million (2015–16) • \$24.8 million (2016–17) <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013

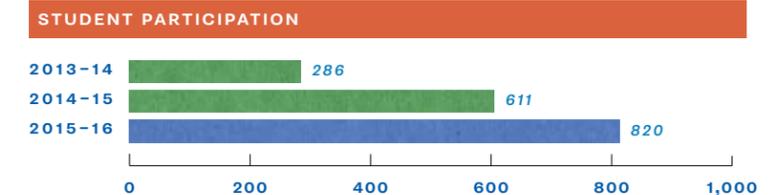
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	3,673
Schools Participating	387
2015 Expenditures	\$17,600,000



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6,000
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and receive special education or related services on a daily basis – Have 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 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.4 million <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet state nondiscrimination policies • Comply with health and safety requirements 	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	820
Schools Participating	N/A
2015 Expenditures	\$4,428,000*

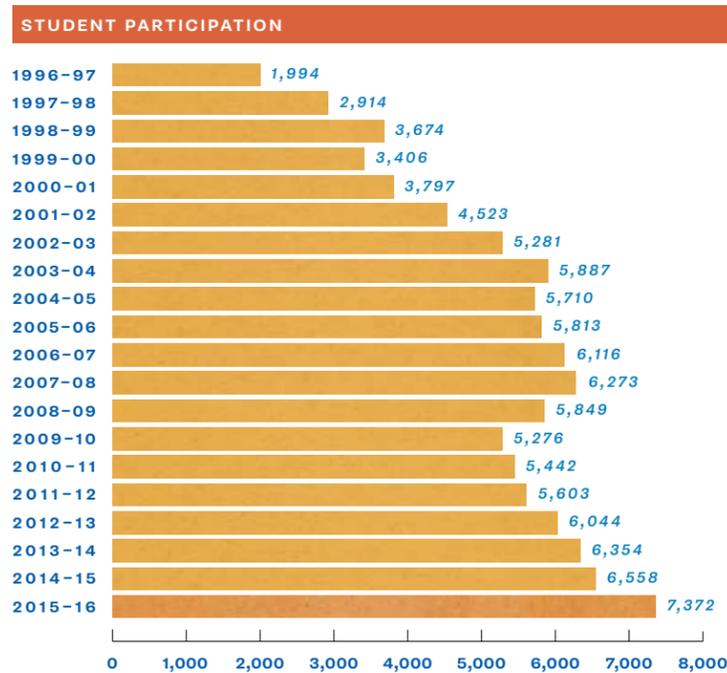
*AFC Growth Fund estimate





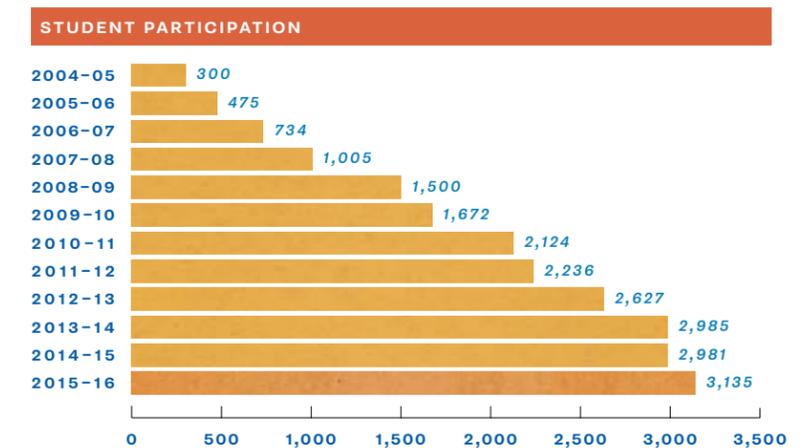
<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-preferenced 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tuition – \$4,250 (grades K–8) – \$5,700 (grades 9–12)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must live in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District • Priority given to students living below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$48,500 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Scholarship may continue throughout high school • Private school students are also eligible 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$38.1 million
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered to participate and chartered by the state • Meet state standards for chartered nonpublic schools • Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes • Administer the state tests, including the Ohio Graduation Test • Principal must be licensed by the State of Ohio, Office of Education Licensure 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1995

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	7,372
Schools Participating	38
2015 Expenditures	\$30,796,220



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tuition/IEP related services – \$27,000
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must be identified as autistic through assigned school district • Student must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) • Private school students are also eligible 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific program appropriation
<p>SCHOOL/PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered to participate and chartered by the state • Comply with state nondiscrimination codes • Demonstrate fiscal soundness • Have properly credentialed staff • Conduct background checks on teachers and staff working with children • Be in operation at least one full year • Have adequate liability, property and casualty insurance • Provide regular student progress reports to parents and resident public schools • Principal must be licensed by the State of Ohio, Office of Education Licensure 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	3,135
Schools/Providers Participating	278
2015 Expenditures	\$54,621,023





<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Failing schools 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tuition – \$4,650 (grades K–8) – \$5,900 (grades 9–12 in 2015–16) – \$6,000 (grades 9–12 in 2016–17) – Scholarship can cover full tuition for students living under 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$48,500 for a family of four in 2015–16)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current public school students assigned to a school that ranked in the bottom 10 percent of schools on the basis of its Performance Index score or are assigned to a school that, in two years out of a three-year period, have been in Academic Watch or Academic Emergency or are assigned to a school with a “D” or “F” in the Performance Index or the value-added progress dimension • Students entering kindergarten in one of these schools also qualify • Priority given to returning and low-income applicants 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60,000 <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific program appropriation
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered to participate and chartered by the state • Meet state standards for chartered nonpublic schools • Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes • Conduct background checks on teachers and staff working with children • Administer state tests; test results are publicized on the Ohio Department of Education website • Principal must be licensed by the State of Ohio, Office of Education Licensure 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	20,201
Schools Participating	475
2015 Expenditures	\$80,132,424



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tuition and fees – Student’s per-pupil special education funding amount based on disability, with a cap of \$27,000
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be identified as a child with a disability by the school district – Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) – Be in compliance with the state compulsory attendance law • Private school students are also eligible 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 5 percent of Ohio students identified as children with disabilities during the previous fiscal year (approximately 12,000 scholarships)
<p>SCHOOL/PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered to participate and chartered by the state • Comply with state nondiscrimination laws • Meet health and safety standards • 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 • 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 • Have properly credentialed staff • Be an educational program approved by the state • 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 • Submit to the state information on the type and cost of special education services given to scholarship recipients • Principal must be licensed by the State of Ohio, Office of Education Licensure 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific program appropriation <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011

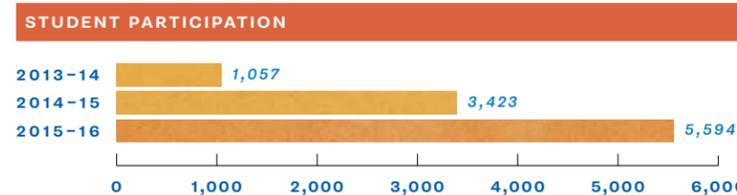
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	4,159
Schools/Providers Participating	301
2015 Expenditures	\$29,886,728





<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tuition /IEP related services \$4,650 • If the renewal student's family income is above 200 percent (\$48,500) but at or below 300 percent (\$72,750) of the federal poverty guidelines, the student will receive a scholarship in the amount of 75 percent of the full scholarship amount • If the renewal student's family income is above 300 percent (\$72,750) but at or below 400 percent (\$97,000) of the federal poverty guidelines, the student shall receive a scholarship in the amount of 50 percent of the full scholarship amount
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$48,500 for a family of four in 2015–16) for full scholarship; priority given to students from families at or below the federal poverty guideline (\$24,250 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Family income below 400 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$97,000 for a family of four in 2015–16) for a partial scholarship for renewal students • Student must not be eligible for the Educational Choice Scholarship Program • For the 2015–16 school year, only students who are entering kindergarten, first and second grade 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 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered to participate and chartered by the state • Meet state standards for chartered nonpublic schools • Comply with state laws regarding nondiscrimination and health and safety codes • Conduct background checks on teachers and staff working with children • Administer state tests; test results are published on the Ohio Department of Education website • Principal must be licensed by the State of Ohio, Office of Education Licensure 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$17 million in 2014–15 <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	5,594
Schools Participating	475
2015 Expenditures	\$13,081,658



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

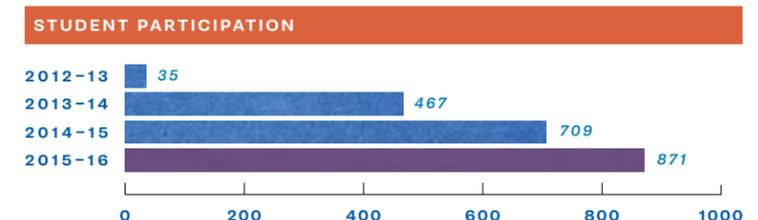
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	469
Schools Participating	51
2015 Expenditures	\$3,600,000*

*AFC Growth Fund estimate



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is greater: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$5,000 – 80 percent of average per-pupil expenditure in the student's school district – Up to \$25,000 to cover the tuition, fees and transportation costs at the selected private school for special needs students
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the amount required to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$134,589 for a family of four in 2015-16) • Student must have attended or was eligible to attend a public school identified as in need of improvement during the preceding school year • Participating students and their siblings remain eligible until graduation • For the special needs portion of the scholarship, eligible students must have attended a public school and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent for a one-year donation • 75 percent for a two-year donation
<p>SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships • Register as a scholarship granting organization with the state • Spend a portion of expenditures on scholarships for students who qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015-16) in an amount equal or greater to the percentage of eligible low-income students in the state • Ensure scholarships are portable during the school year and can be used at any qualified school that accepts the eligible student • Conduct background checks on employees and board members • Maintain full and accurate records on contributions and expenditures and other documentation required by the state 	<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000 individuals • \$2,000 married couples • \$100,000 corporations
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be accredited by the state or a state-approved accrediting association • Comply with health and safety laws and codes • Have a stated policy against discrimination • Ensure academic accountability through regular progress reports to parents 	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.5 million <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	871
Schools Participating	80
SGOs Operating	3
2015 Expenditures	\$951,701



Pennsylvania: EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT

<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and fees
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family income cannot exceed \$75,000, with an additional \$15,000 allowed for each additional dependent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income adjusted annually to reflect growth of the Consumer Price Index Private school students are also eligible For special needs students, family income cannot exceed \$75,000, with an additional \$15,000 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) 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 percent of one-year donation 90 percent of two-year donation <p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$750,000
<p>SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 80 percent of contributions for scholarships Make scholarships available for more than one school Submit annual report detailing donations received and scholarships awarded and proof of a financial review by a certified public accountant 	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$60 million
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 Meet state health and safety codes Conduct background checks on teachers and other employees working with children 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2001

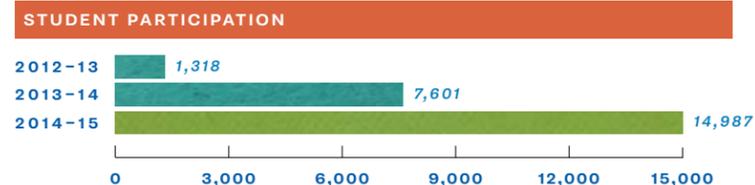
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	34,826
Schools Participating	N/A
SOs Operating	274
2014 Donations	\$65,800,000



Pennsylvania: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT

<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failing schools, means-tested and means-preferenced 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$8,500 (for non-special education students) \$15,000 (for special education students) Tuition and fees
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) Preference given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who received a scholarship during the previous year Students from households with a family income that does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16) Family income cannot exceed \$75,000, with an additional \$15,000 allowed for each additional dependent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income adjusted annually to reflect growth of the Consumer Price Index Private school students are also eligible For special needs students, family income cannot exceed \$75,000, with an additional \$15,000 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) 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 percent of one-year donation 90 percent of two-year donation <p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$750,000
<p>SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION (SO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 80 percent of contributions for scholarships Make scholarships available for more than one school Submit to the state an annual report detailing donations received and scholarships awarded, including the exact number of scholarships and the 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 Submit a copy of a financial audit conducted by a certified accounting firm 	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50 million
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 Meet state health and safety codes Conduct background checks on teachers and other employees working with children 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	14,987
Schools Participating	N/A
SOs Operating	186
2014 Donations	\$58,200,000





Rhode Island: RHODE ISLAND CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT

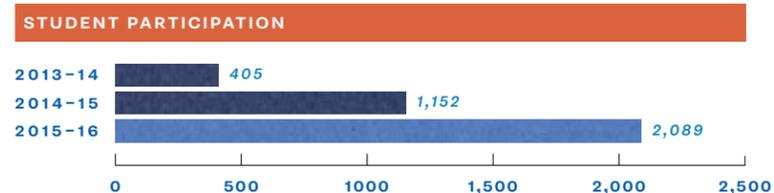
<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family income cannot exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$60,625 for a family of four in 2015–16) Other criteria determined by the scholarship granting organization Private school students are also eligible 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 percent of one-year donation 90 percent of two-year donation <p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100,000
<p>SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships Provide annual report to the state detailing the number and value of scholarships awarded, ZIP codes of recipients and criteria used to award scholarships 	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.5 million <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with federal and state nondiscrimination laws Meet state health and safety codes Require teachers to have bachelor's degrees Conduct teacher background checks 	

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	513
Schools Participating	41
SGOs Operating	5
2015 Donations	\$1,568,036



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and fees \$10,000
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must be designated by the South Carolina Department of Education as meeting the federal definition of a “child with a disability” (34 C.F.R. § 300.8) Private school students are also eligible 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 percent of donation
<p>SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION (SFO) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least 97 percent of contributions for scholarships Allocate all scholarships to exceptional needs students Serve more than one school Conduct a financial audit performed by a certified public accountant 	<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 percent of tax liability <p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$8 million
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not discriminate based on race, color, religion or national origin Comply with health and safety codes Have a curriculum that includes courses set forth in the state’s diploma requirements Administer national achievement or state standardized tests 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 Have a compliance audit conducted by an outside entity or auditing firm Submit previous year's scholarship details Have a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation, review or audit of the school’s financial statement conducted by a certified public accountant Certification that it meets eligibility requirements 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	2,089
Schools Participating	101
SFOs Operating	4
2015 Donations	\$8,000,000



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual tuition tax credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special needs 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$10,000 per child, depending on amount spent on tuition
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be designated by the South Carolina Department of Education as meeting the federal definitions of a “child with a disability” (C.F.R. §300.8), or Be diagnosed within the last three years by a licensed speech-language pathologist, psychiatrist, or medical, mental health, psychoeducational or other comparable licensed health care provider as having a neurodevelopmental disorder, a substantial sensory or physical impairment, such as deaf, blind or orthopedic disability, or some other disability or acute or chronic condition that significantly impedes the student’s ability to learn and succeed in school without specialized instructional and associated supports and services tailored to the child’s unique needs Private school students are also eligible 	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$4 million
<p>PARENT REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must enroll child in a school considered an eligible institution 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not discriminate based on race, color, religion or national origin Comply with health and safety codes Have a curriculum that includes courses set forth in the state’s diploma requirements Administer national achievement or state standardized tests, and include student test scores in application for consideration as an eligible institution Be a member in good standing of the Southern Association of Christian Schools, the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools or the South Carolina Independent Schools Association Apply to the Education Oversight Committee to be considered an eligible institution; application must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating student test scores, by category, on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for all grades tested A copy of a compilation, review or compliance audit of the school’s financial statements, conducted by a certified public accounting firm 	

PROGRAM UPDATE

This program was enacted in 2015 and although families are currently using this credit, data is not yet available.

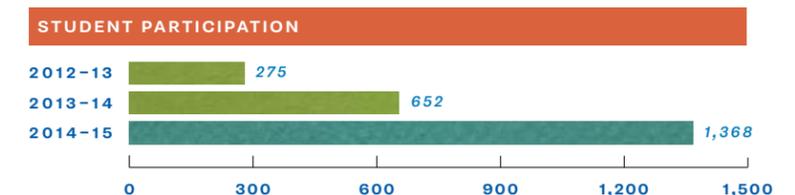
<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on state's public school funding formula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$7,105 (three or more hours of services) – \$4,263 (less than three hours of services)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be identified as disabled and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) – Currently be attending an eligible private school and be determined in need of specialized services 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,791,358
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be approved by the state • Comply with the federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. §2000d • Comply with state health and safety codes • Submit to the state an audit and financial report completed by a certified public accountant • Possess adequate working capital to maintain operations for the first year • Disclose to parents the special education services to be provided and the cost of those services • Administer an annual assessment of the student's academic progress and report results to the student's parents • Require teachers to have a bachelor's degree, three years of teaching experience or special skills • Provide parents with teacher's credentials 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	700
Schools Participating	43
2014 Expenditures	\$3,739,717



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship tax credit—corporate and individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is less: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tuition and instructional fees and materials – 100 percent of state per-pupil funding
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$72,750 for a family of four in 2015–16) • Student must have attended public school the previous year or be entering kindergarten or first grade • Eligible students with a disability must satisfy the above requirement; they must also have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and their family's income cannot exceed 400 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$97,000 for a family of four in 2015–16) 	<p>TAX CREDIT VALUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 percent of donation
<p>SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION (SF) REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be approved by the state • Use at least 90 percent of contributions for scholarships • Make scholarships available for more than one school • Comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 • Conduct an annual audit, review or compilation on tax-credit-derived funds • Submit to the state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total number and dollar amount of contributions received – Dates when such contributions were received – Total number and dollar amount of scholarships awarded 	<p>DONOR TAX CREDIT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 100 percent of state tax liability, no less than \$500 • Individual and couple <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 100 percent of state tax liability, no less than \$500 and no more than \$50,000
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with state and local health and safety laws • Hold a valid occupancy permit • Comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 • 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 be a nonpublic school that maintains an assessment system that annually measures scholarship students' progress in reading and math using a national norm-referenced achievement test • Annually provide the state with scholarship students' national norm-referenced achievement test results • Annually provide the state with scholarship students' graduation rates 	<p>STATEWIDE CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 million <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	1,368
Schools Participating	107
SFs Operating	21
2015 Donations	\$3,864,861*



*AFC Growth Fund estimate

<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,381 (grades K–8) • \$12,572 (grades 9–12)
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16) or have participated in the program in the preceding year and have a family income of up to 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$72,750 for a family of four in 2015–16) • 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 • Students from low-income families in other public schools are also eligible • Students currently attending private school are also eligible • Evaluation participants must take a nationally norm-referenced test 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million authorized
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not discriminate • Comply with district health and safety codes • Maintain a valid certificate of occupancy • Require teachers in core subjects to have a bachelors degree • Comply with standards prescribed under the District of Columbia compulsory school attendance laws • Allow site visits by the administering program entity • 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 • Submit proof of financial sustainability for schools in operation for five years or less • Have financial systems in place to ensure that funds are used appropriately 	<p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2004

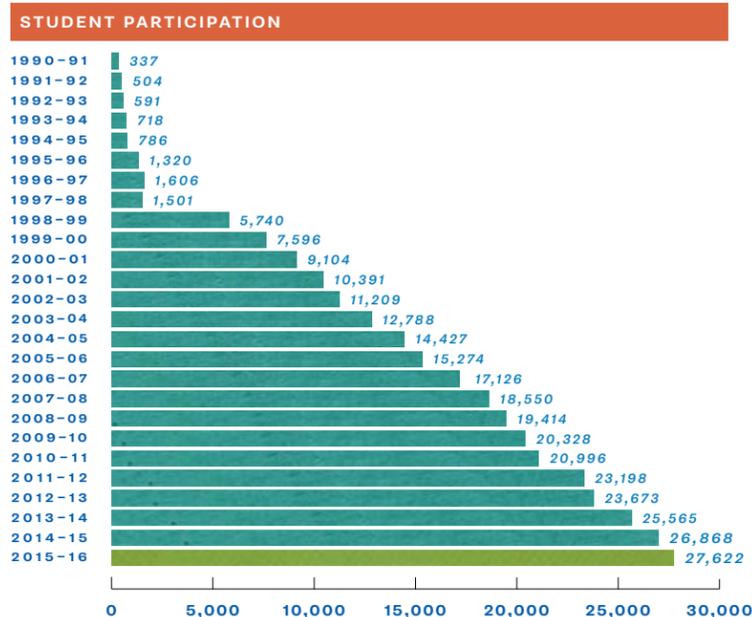
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	1,244
Schools Participating	49
2015 Expenditures	\$13,200,000





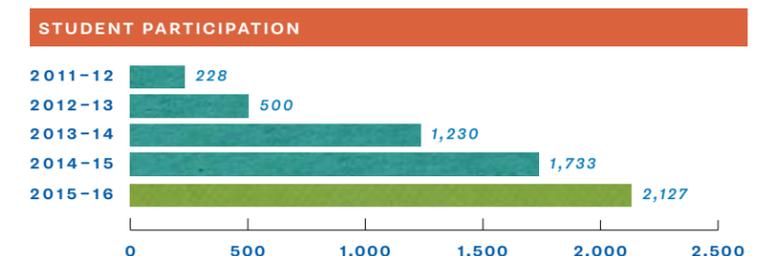
PROGRAM TYPE • Voucher – Means-tested	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • \$7,214 (for K–8) • \$7,860 (for 9–12) • Each year, the scholarship cap will increase by a percentage equal to the percentage increase given to Wisconsin public schools
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • Student must live in the Milwaukee Public School District • Family income below 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$72,840 for a family of four in 2015–16), with an additional \$7,000 allowed for households with married parents • Private school students are also eligible	
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS • Meet state nondiscrimination policies • Meet state health and safety codes • Allow students to opt out of religious programs • Administer to scholarship recipients the Wisconsin Forward exam for: science in grades 4 and 8; social studies in grades 4, 8 and 10; and English Language Arts and Math in grades 3–8 • Administer to scholarship recipients in high school: the ACT suite of assessments; and beginning in the 2016–17 school year, a civics test comprised of the same 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (scholarship students must correctly answer at least 60 of those questions to receive a high school diploma) • Receive accreditation within three years of participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program; Current participating schools adding grades or creating a new school are exempt • Submit to the state an annual financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant • Admit eligible students on a random basis • Provide the state with evidence of sound fiscal practices and financial viability to the state • Require school administrators to undergo financial training and to have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education • Require teachers to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and teacher aides to have a high school diploma or a GED or HSED • Provide 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1–6 and 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7–12 • Provide the state with information about the academic program at the participating school and student test score data	ENROLLMENT CAP • None
	PROGRAM FUNDING • \$196.4 million
	YEAR ENACTED • 1990

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	27,622
Schools Participating	117
2015 Expenditures	\$196,400,000



PROGRAM TYPE • Voucher – Means-tested	SCHOLARSHIP CAP • \$7,214 (for K–8) • \$7,860 (for 9–12) • Each year, the scholarship cap will increase by a percentage equal to the percentage increase given to Wisconsin public schools
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY • Student must live in Racine Unified School District • Family income below 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$72,840 for a family of four in 2015–16), with an additional \$7,000 allowed for households with married parents • Student must be enrolled in public school in the Racine Unified School District the previous school year; be entering school for the first time; or is applying to attend kindergarten, first grade or ninth grade at a participating private school	ENROLLMENT CAP • None
SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS • Meet state nondiscrimination policies • Meet health and safety codes • Allow students to opt out of religious programs • Administer to scholarship recipients the Wisconsin Forward exam for: science in grades 4 and 8; social studies in grades 4, 8 and 10; and English Language Arts and Math in grades 3–8 • Administer to scholarship recipients in high school: the ACT suite of assessments; and beginning in the 2016-17 school year, a civics test comprised of the same 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (scholarship students must correctly answer at least 60 of those questions to receive a high school diploma) • Receive accreditation within three years of participating in the Racine Parental Choice Program • Submit to the state an annual financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant • Provide the state evidence of sound fiscal practices and financial viability • Require school administrators to undergo financial training and to have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education • Require teachers to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and teacher aides to have a high school diploma or a GED or HSED • Provide 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1–6 and 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7–12 • Provide the state with information about the academic program at the participating schools and student test score data	PROGRAM FUNDING • \$15.1 million
	YEAR ENACTED • 2011

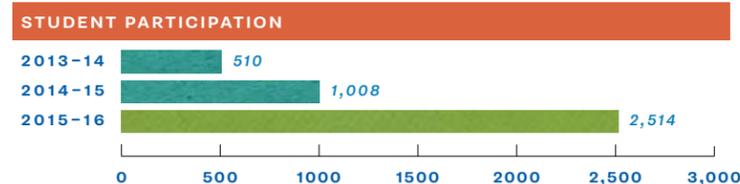
DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	2,127
Schools Participating	19
2015 Expenditures	\$15,100,000





<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Means-tested 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7,214 (for K–8) • \$7,860 (for 9–12) • Each year, the scholarship cap will increase by a percentage equal to the percentage increase given to Wisconsin public schools
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family income cannot exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16), with an additional \$7,000 allowed for households with married parents • Student must reside outside of the Milwaukee Public School District and the Racine Unified School District • Enrolled in public school 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 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each district’s enrollment will be capped at 1 percent of its public school district enrollment
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet state nondiscrimination policies • Allow students to opt out of religious programs • Administer to scholarship recipients the Wisconsin Forward exam for: science in grades 4 and 8; social studies in grades 4, 8 and 10; and English Language Arts and Math in grades 3–8 • Administer to scholarship recipients in high school: the ACT suite of assessments; and beginning in the 2016–17 school year, a civics test comprised of the same 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (scholarship students must correctly answer at least 60 of those questions to receive a high school diploma) • Receive accreditation within three years of participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program • Submit to the state a financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant • Provide the state with evidence of sound fiscal practices and financial viability • Require school administrators to undergo financial training and to have at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education • Require teachers to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education and teacher aides to have a high school diploma or a GED or HSED • Provide 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1–6 and 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7–12 • Provide the Department of Public Instruction with information about the academic program at the participating school and student test score data • Meet all health and safety codes 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$18.3 million <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013

DATA UPDATE	
Scholarships Awarded	2,514
Schools Participating	82
2015 Expenditures	\$18,300,000



<p>PROGRAM TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special needs 	<p>SCHOLARSHIP CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12,000 (school year 2016–17) • Beginning in school year 2017–18, voucher payments will increase by a percentage equal to the percentage increase in general school aid to Wisconsin public schools
<p>STUDENT ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or services plan in affect and was enrolled in a Wisconsin public school for the entire immediately preceding the school year – Have applied to attend one or more public schools in nonresident school districts under the state’s open enrollment program in school year 2011–12 forward and have been denied enrollment by the nonresident school districts 	<p>ENROLLMENT CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be approved as a private school by the state superintendent or have received accreditation as of the August 1 preceding the school term for which a scholarship is awarded • Admit eligible students on a first come, first served basis • Comply with all health and safety laws or codes that apply to private schools • Hold a valid certificate of occupancy • Comply with the federal nondiscrimination requirements of 42 U.S.C. §200d • Conduct criminal background checks of employees • Submit annually to the state a financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant • File a surety bond with the state, if the school receives more than \$50,000 in scholarship money, equal to 25 percent of the total amount and provide the state evidence of financial viability • Provide each applicant a profile of the school’s special education program, including methods of instruction and the qualifications of the teachers and others who will be providing special education and related services • Implement the student’s most recent IEP or services plan, as modified by agreement between the school and the parents • Provide a record of the implementation of the student’s IEP or services plan, including an evaluation of the child’s progress to the school board in which the student resides • Report regularly to parents on the student’s progress • Provide 875 hours of instruction each school year 	<p>PROGRAM FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None specified in the law <p>YEAR ENACTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015

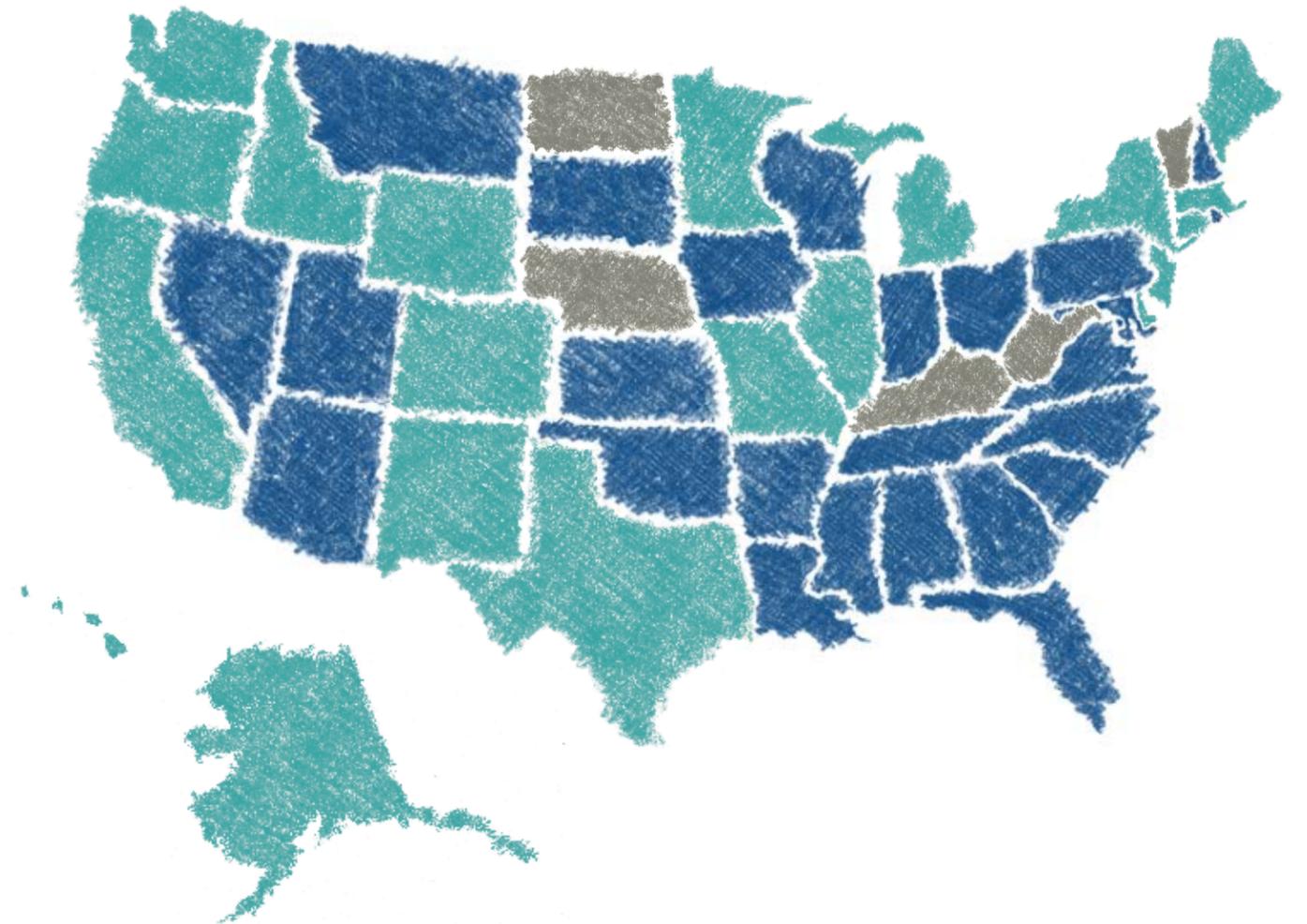
PROGRAM UPDATE

Students are slated to first participate in the program during the 2016–17 school year.

394,311

STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN
PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS
FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

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



AMERICAN FEDERATION
for Children
Growth Fund

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 American Federation for Children Growth Fund 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.

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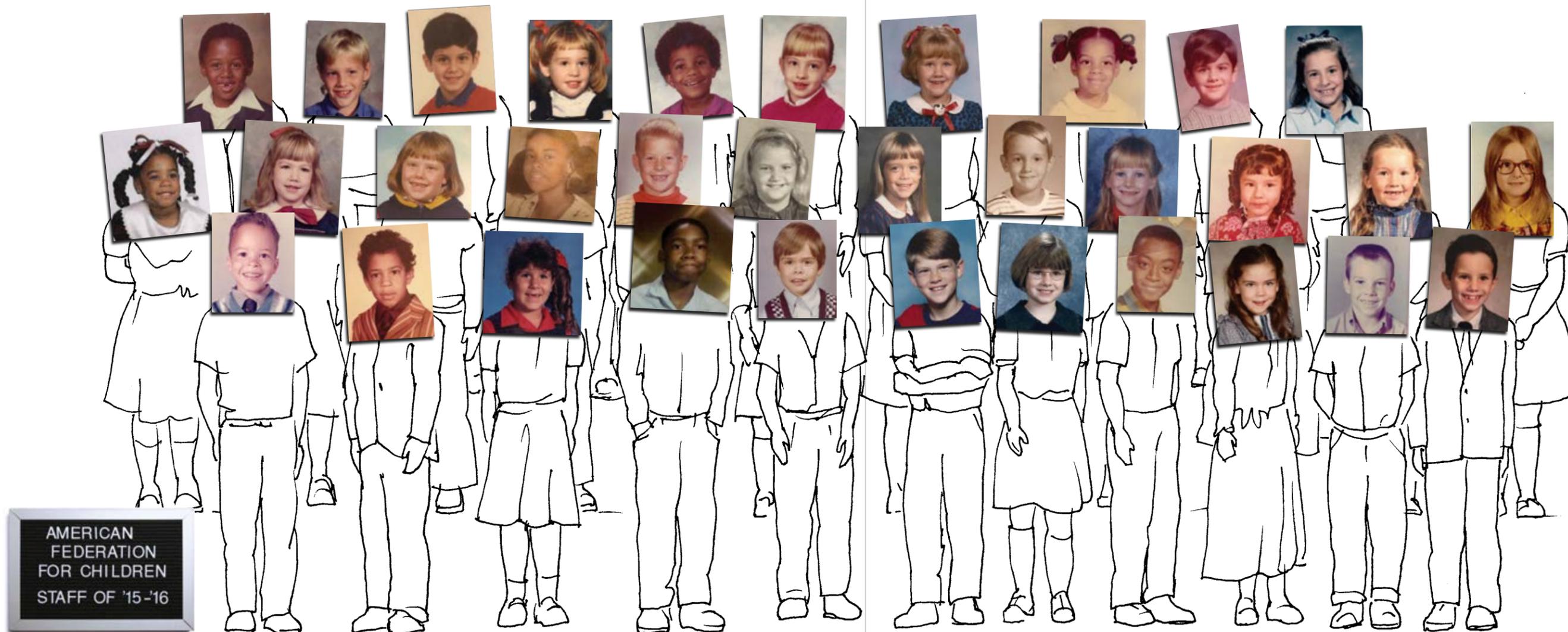
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John T. Walton, *Alliance for School Choice cofounder*



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NOT PICTURED: Ed Kirby, Senior Advisor, JAMESTOWN, RI

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The authors of the *2015–16 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 the author's rigorous research. Their dedication and hard work have helped to make the American Federation for Children Growth Fund's *Choice's Yearbook* unparalleled in its accuracy.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All of the photographs that appear in the *2015–16 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
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