

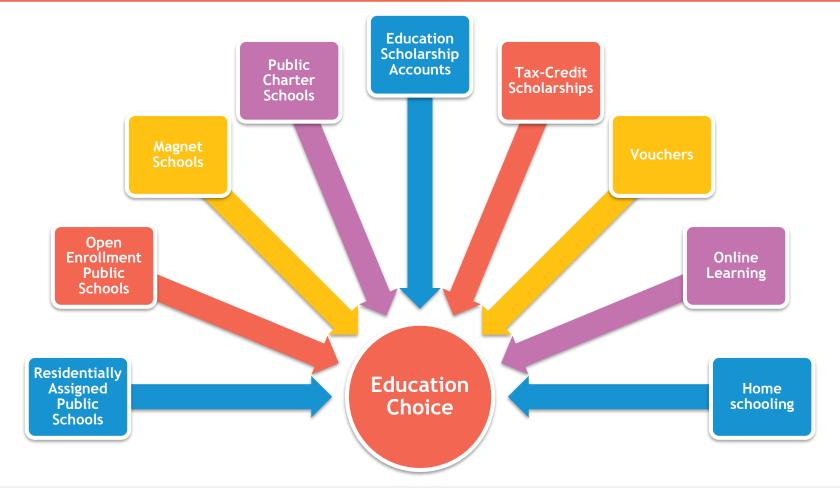
# **Education Choice: Overview and Trends**

Presentation before Alaska House Education Committee

### What is Education Choice?



Every child deserves access to a quality education that provides the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to prepare them for a successful career and fulfilling life. Education choice creates opportunity for families by allowing them to select the **best educational fit** for each child.





## Parents Value Different Things



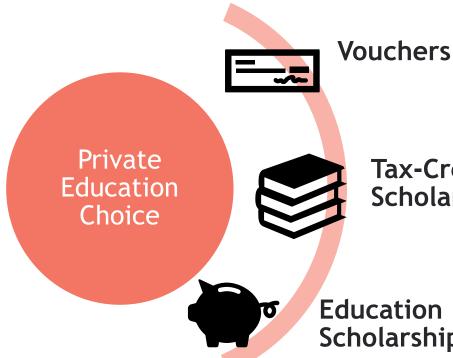
- -Survey after survey shows that parents care about a lot of different aspects of education. **Very few** schools can excel at all of them.
- -Parents are uniquely equipped to know what's best for their own children. They represent a strong source of accountability.

**Better Teachers** Responsive Staff Learning Environment **Less School Day Wasted Personalization** Sense of Community **Tutorial Services** Better Education Engaged Parents Small Classes **Peer Influences Student Safety Opportunities to Involve College Prep Less Gang Activity** Individual Attention **Test Scores Extracurricular Respect for Parents Student Discipline Religious Education** 



#### Private Education Choice: 3 Main Varieties





- Private school tuition
- **Tutoring**
- Therapy for students with disabilities
- Curricular materials

Tax-Credit **Scholarships** 

Education Scholarship Accounts

- Online programs
- Contracted district courses/services
- Exam fees
- **Transportation**

State-funded coupons that parents can redeem at private schools for tuition.

Businesses and individuals make private donations to nonprofit organizations that provide *private* school scholarships to eligible students. Businesses and individuals receive a state tax credit. Courts have consistently considered these funds as private, not state funds.

A flexible education spending account for an individual student. Parents can customize and direct funds in an ESA to combinations of approved educational uses. Nearly all existing ESA programs are funded like vouchers, but some states are exploring funding them through tax credits.

## An International Phenomenon



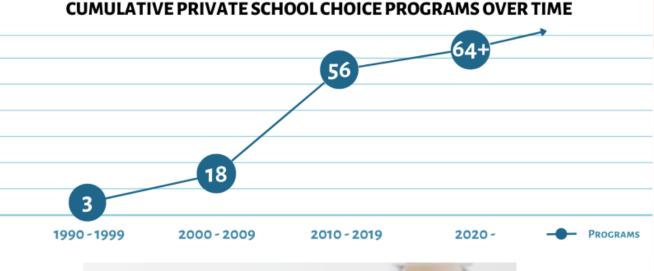
- Nearly half of 53 nations surveyed by OECD have a form of vouchers or tuition tax credits
- Robust choice systems in European countries
  - Belgium
  - Netherlands
  - Norway
  - Spain
- Around the world:
  - Chile
  - Israel
  - South Korea
  - Thailand





# Private School Choice in the U.S.: Programs Multiplying...





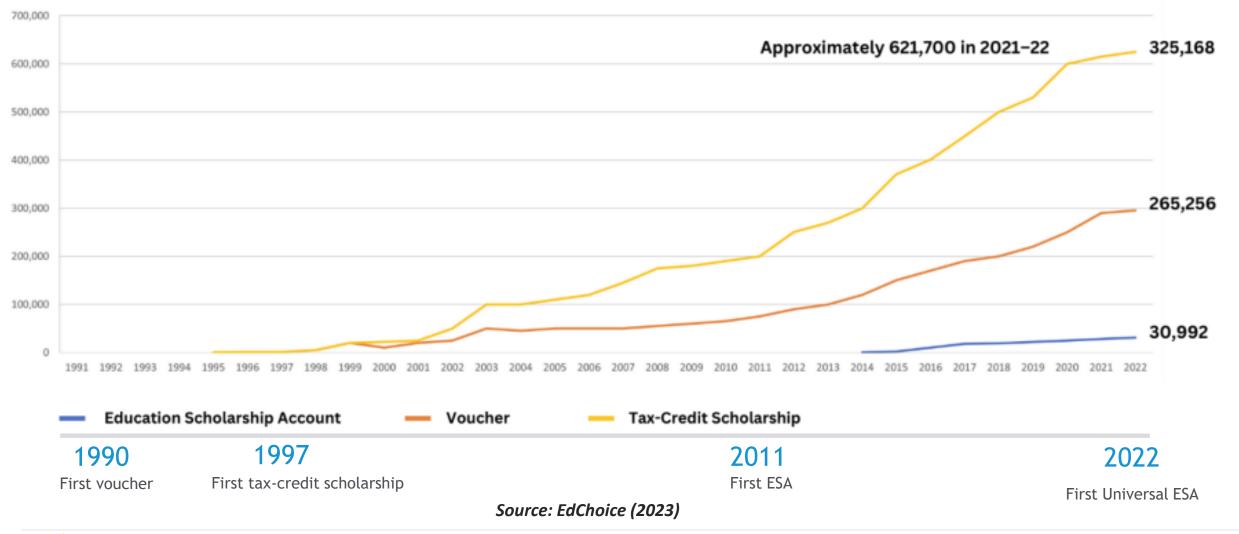


	YEAR	States with ESAs	Approved Programs	Students Served	Additions
	2011-12	1	1	153	Ariz.
-	2012-13	1	1	302	
	2013-14	1	1	761	
	2014-15	2	2	2,894	Fla.
	2015-16	4	4	7,498	Miss., Tenn. IEA
	2016-17	4	4	11,980	
	2017-18	5	5	15,801	NC
	2018-19	5	5	19,537	
	2019-20	5	6	26,214	Tenn. ESA Pilot
	2020-21	5	6	29,385	
	2021-22	10	11	33,093	Ind., Ky., Mo., NH, WV
	2022-23	10	11	100,000+	



## ...and Student Enrollment Growing







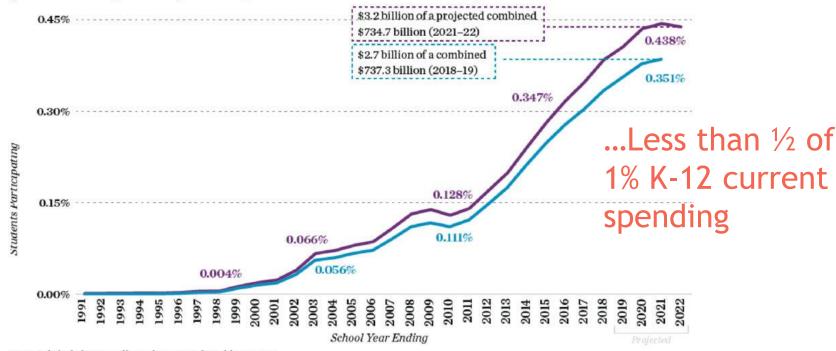
### Fitting into the Big K-12 Picture



1.2% of All K-12 Students Enrolled in Private School Choice Program...

#### Spending on ESAs, Vouchers and Tax-Credit Scholarships as a percent of combined program and public K-12 current and total expenditures

Current expenditures include instruction, support services, food services and enterprise operations. Total expenditures include those categories and also capital outlay, interest payments on debts and programs outside of public elementary/secondary education, such as adult education and community services.



Note: Only includes expenditures in states and Washington, D.C.

Sources: EdChoice (2021), The ABCs of School Choice: The Comprehensive Guide to Every Private School Choice Program in America, 2021 Edition; National Center for Education Statistics (2021), Digest of Education Statistics tables, retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest; Stephen Q. Cornman, Jeremy J. Phillips, Malia R. Howell, and Jumaane Young (2021), Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY 19 (NCES 2021-302), retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2021/2021302.pdf

Source: EdChoice (2022)



## Research on Private Education Choice



The most rigorous studies yield overwhelmingly positive results.

Research Topic	Positive Finding	Neutral Finding	Negative Finding
Choice Participants: Test Scores	11	4	3
Choice Participants: Graduation and Attainment	5	2	0
Parent Satisfaction	30	1	2
Public School Students: Test Scores	25	1	2
Effect on Racial Composition of Schools	6	1	0
Effect on Student Civic Values	6	5	0
Fiscal Impact on Taxpayers and School Districts	68	4	5



# Private Choice Outcomes: Program Design Matters



### LOUISIANA STORY

Two randomized control studies of the Louisiana Scholarship Program (voucher) found negative impacts on reading and math achievement. Researchers believe these impacts result from program design. The LSP requires private schools to:

- Teach to the state test
- Accept any student who applies
- Accept the state's payment as "full" tuition

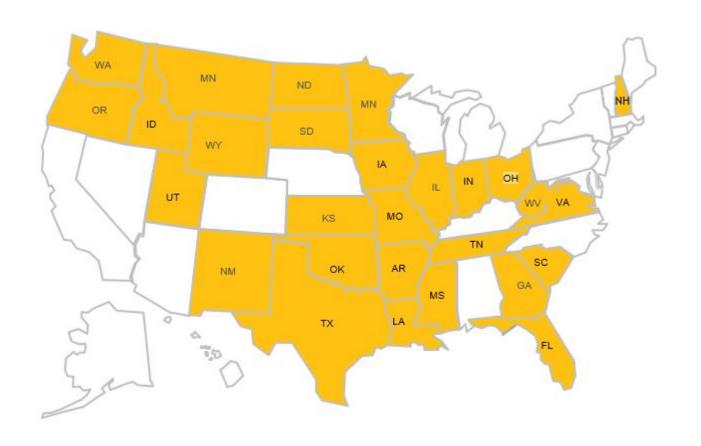
A small percentage of eligible private schools in LA participate in the program. Some are less financially stable, suggesting that they may need the state subsidy to operate.



# Educational Choice, Flexibility on the March



## **ESA Legislation Introduced in 2023**



- Recent growth fueled by pandemic policies
  - Frustrations & opportunities:half of parents want toreimagine, customize K-12
- 70%+ voters favor ESAs; higher among K-12 parents
- Related trends
  - -Homeschool growth, diversity
  - -Microschools, hybrid models





### Thank You!

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