

School Choice Facts

Fact: Thirty-two private school choice programs have been enacted across the country, including 21 voucher programs, 16 scholarship tax credit programs, one education savings account program, and two individual tuition tax credits of significant size.

Fact: There was more than \$1.2 billion in dedicated funding available for school voucher and scholarship tax credit programs nationwide in 2013-14.

Fact: The nation's longest-running modern voucher program is the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, which was created in 1990. Maine has supported private school choice for rural students since the 1800s.

Fact: During the 2013-14 school year:

- More than 308,000 children participated in private school choice programs across the country.
- There were 115,580 students enrolled in school voucher programs, 192,219 students enrolled in scholarship tax credit programs, and 761 students participating in education savings account programs.

Research Says... Choice Works

As of 2013...

11 out of 12 gold standard studies indicate private school voucher programs have a positive impact on participating students.

7 out of 8 studies have found that private school choice programs decrease racial segregation.

6 out of 6 studies show that private school choice programs save taxpayers money.

22 out of 23 studies found positive effects for public schools when private school choice programs exist.

5 out of 7 studies of private school choice programs find positive impacts on the civic values of students.

No study of private school choice programs has found significant negative impacts on students or public schools.

Studies have also shown positive impacts on high school graduation rates, college enrollment, and parental satisfaction.

Sources: The American Federation for Children; the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice; and "Public Dollars, Private Schools: Examining the Options in Missouri" and "Redefining Public Education," by Show-Me Institute Fellow James V. Shuls, PhD.

5297 Washington Place | Saint Louis, MO 63108 | 314-454-0647 | www.showmeinstitute.org

Read Our Blog:
showmedaily.org

Follow Us on Twitter:
twitter.com/showme

Find Us on Facebook:
facebook.com/showmeinstitute



MISSOURI FAST FACTS



A Snapshot of School Choice

A Show-Me Institute Publication

ADVANCING LIBERTY WITH RESPONSIBILITY
BY PROMOTING MARKET SOLUTIONS
FOR MISSOURI PUBLIC POLICY

Types of School Choice

Public Charter Schools

These are public schools that receive government funding but are free to offer an innovative curriculum, special incentives for teachers, and targeted education to children. In Missouri, charter schools are often created by individuals concerned about education or local nonprofits. Colleges and universities within Missouri sponsor charter schools.

School Vouchers

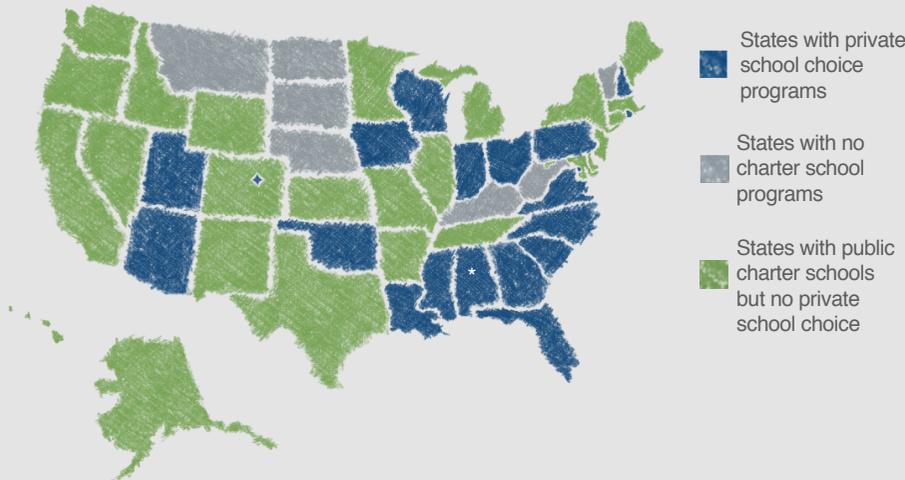
Vouchers allow parents to use public funds to send their children to participating private schools. Many voucher programs are targeted to disadvantaged students, students in failing public schools, or students with special needs. Tax dollars fund voucher programs.

Education Savings Accounts (ESA)

ESA programs create personal accounts for a child's state education dollars. These funds can be used for a variety of educational expenses, including tuition and fees, textbooks, and tutoring. Families determine how education funding is spent for their children's education. Taxes also fund ESAs.

Scholarship Tax Credits

Individuals and corporations donate to a nonprofit scholarship organization. In exchange, donors receive a credit toward their state tax liabilities.



*- Alabama has a private school choice; a charter bill is currently being debated in the state legislature.

◆ Existing choice program is in just one county.

Sources: The sources of data provided on state pages include: state departments of education (enrollment numbers), the Alliance for School Choice (voucher/tax credit data), the Center for Education Reform (charter school data), the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), America's Promise Alliance (dropout data), and the National Governor's Association (contact information).

Myths vs. Reality

Myth: School choice drains funds from public schools.

Reality: Studies consistently demonstrate that public schools benefit from the existence of school voucher and scholarship tax credit programs. In fact, per-pupil expenditures typically result in cost savings and lead to an increase in per-pupil expenditures in traditional public schools.

Myth: Private school choice violates the separation between church and state.

Reality: The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that appropriately designed private school choice programs are constitutional.

Myth: School choice is just a right-wing issue.

Reality: School choice is an issue that receives support across all political spectrums.

Myth: There is no accountability in school choice programs.

Reality: Most school choice programs have accountability provisions in place. However, parents, not the government, are best equipped to know the type of education that will benefit their child. Thus, being able to express school choice is a form of accountability.

Myth: The problem with private school choice is that schools will not be required to accept children.

Reality: The people who run private schools want to help children, especially disadvantaged children and children with disabilities. Many private schools are specifically developed to help children and families who are most in need.

The Importance of Public, Charter, and Private Schools

Public schools are an integral part of American society and, in many cases, offer a quality education. But when public schools do not work—or do not work for your child—you deserve a choice. In reality, school choice does not always mean that people have to choose private or religious schools. The school choice movement seeks access to better schools for children, whether traditional public schools, charter schools, or private schools.

School choice is not just good for students; it also gives teachers more options.

Students who are not doing well or whose needs are not being met are most likely to benefit from school choice programs.

Public schools typically improve when they face competition from school choice programs.