

**School Choice Statistics**  
*Fast Facts Sheet*

**At a Glance:**

- Since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was signed in 1965, greatly expanding federal investment, **per pupil expenditures** - adjusted for inflation - **have risen by 291%**.
- According to the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 70% of 8th graders were below proficient in reading and 72% were below proficient in math; 40% of 4th graders did not even meet the basic reading levels.

**School Choice Fast Facts:**

- A dozen states have universal or near universal school choice programs and 33 states have some form of school choice program.
- Parents report higher levels of school safety for their children who are in school choice programs.
- Support for school choice is overwhelming, even among 70% of Democrats. **Black parents are among its strongest supporters, with 73% of Black Americans favoring school choice.**
- Peer-reviewed studies show that **private schools outperform public schools in forming citizens, particularly in promoting political tolerance, political knowledge and skills, voluntarism and social capital.** Religious schooling produces especially positive civic outcomes.
- Washington, D.C.'s Opportunity Scholarship Program found higher graduation rates among voucher recipients — 91% graduated, compared to 70% of those who applied but did not receive a scholarship.
- In Milwaukee, the oldest modern school voucher program (established in 1991) has contributed to higher graduation and college enrollment rates, particularly for Black students.

**2025 Federal Policy Fast Facts:**

- The Big Beautiful Bill provides vouchers for students to attend private secular or religious schools, as well as homeschooling. Vouchers would be supported through charitable contributions from individuals to entities known as Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO's). In return, donors would receive a full federal tax credit.
  - SGO's would allocate the donated funds as scholarships, which students could apply toward educational expenses (e.g., tuition, textbooks).
  - The program would be capped at \$5 billion in total tax credits annually for 2026-2029.
  - Qualify: Households with income not greater than 300 percent of the area median gross income.
-