



# SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS VOUCHERS

Across the country, school choice options are provided to students and families in a number of different ways. The laws and regulations governing school choice programs can vary dramatically from state to state. For more information, click on the QR code below, or go to [hoover.org/schoolchoicemap](https://www.hoover.org/schoolchoicemap).

## VOUCHERS DEFINED

School vouchers are a funding system that allows public funds to flow directly to parents, who can use them to pay tuition at a qualified private school of their choice. Vouchers can be used to pay partial or full tuition at a private school, including religious and non-religious options.

## KEY VARIABLES

The amount for each voucher is set by each state and eligibility typically depends on a variety of factors including public school enrollment status, family household income in reference to the federal poverty line, or federal free and reduced lunch qualification.

Some states offer vouchers for populations of students thought to have a greater need for education options, including students with disabilities, students in foster care, and students with parents who are active-duty or reserve members of the U.S. military.

Maine, Vermont, and more recently, New Hampshire offer town-tuitioning programs which are unique in the field of vouchers because they arose in the 19th century to benefit students living in towns without an age-appropriate public school. Eligible families can now choose religious or non-religious private schools through town tuitioning as a result of the Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Carson v. Makin*.

## POLICY IN PRACTICE: STATE HIGHLIGHT



Indiana

As of 2022, Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program is the nation's largest voucher program in terms of participation. During the 2018-2019 school year, 36,290 enrollees participated. Students must be between ages five and 22 to receive a scholarship and either meet the income eligibility requirements or fall under one of the eight additional eligibility pathways to be approved for a Choice Scholarship award. Eligibility pathways include students with documented disabilities, those zoned for a public school with an "F" designation, those in foster care placements, and those previously awarded a Choice Scholarship or a tax-credit scholarship.

For more information click here:

