



The ABCs of Universal Educational Choice



## **The EdChoice Mission**

#### The EdChoice mission is to advance educational freedom and choice for all as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society







#### **ABOUT EDCHOICE**

EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Indianapolis. Our mission is to support educational freedom and choice for all as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. Our team is driven by the shared passion to see a K-12 education system where all families, regardless of race, origin or family income, are free to choose a learning environment—public or private, near or far, religious or secular that works best for their children. The organization was established in 1996 as the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation and formally changed its name to EdChoice in 2016.

#### FOCUSED STATE INVESTMENT

- · State Outreach to educate the public on the need for and benefits of educational choice.
- Expert Technical Advice on school choice programs and policies and their fiscal effects.
- · Building and working with local coalitions.

#### **RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

We invest in original state and national research to deliver the most up-to-date information about educational choice. Our high-quality, independent research focuses on how school choice programs affect students, families, schools, taxpayers, and communities.

#### TRAINING AND OUTREACH

Legal Defense

Fiscal Research

& Education Center

& Education Center

We help policymakers, advocates, parents, program administrators and other stakeholders through trainings including:

- Fact-Finding Trips bring legislators to states with robust educational choice programs to learn how school choice is implemented and thriving.
- · Legislator Training helps state policymakers and staffers better understand educational choice.
- Parent Organizer Training educates and connects parents who support educational choice.

#### LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION CENTER

LDEC works in partnership with state and national allies to identify and remove legal barriers to universal school choice and provide ongoing legal assistance to the school choice movement. Our services include providing reviews of bills and answering constitutional questions; working alongside other groups to file amicus briefs and provide research and messaging support; and educating the public and others in the legal community about education law.

#### FISCAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

FREC studies the fiscal externalities of private educational choice programs on public schools and taxpayers and transparency issues. It. uses data and works with state and national partners to inform parents, policymakers, the media and other interested citizens so they are aware of the true fiscal cost of the traditional K–12 public education system and the true savings that would result from allowing more educational choice.

## **Universal Choice**

## **But First...**

## A Short Discussion on the History and Purpose of K-12 Education

### **BASIC PREMISE**

Every system has a purpose. Education, health care, business, government—they each have a purpose. And the behavior, rules, structure, and incentives of the system all flow from that purpose.

### The Old Deluder Satan Act of 1647

- Required towns of 50 or more families to hire and maintain a teacher and towns of 100 families to have a grammar school to prepare children for university.
- PURPOSE: To mandate schools in order to ensure that children were instructed in religion.



## Thomas Jefferson's Bill 79

- Bill 79 in 1779 A bill for the general diffusion of knowledge by Jefferson
- PURPOSE: Tax funded education as a means to ensure a stable democracy. No Tyranny



### EDUCATION TO 1840

- Primarily privately funded by parents through fees
- Sectarian academies and itinerant teachers
- Very disparate huge differences in education between New England and the South, between men and women and between black and white
- PURPOSE: local control



## THEN CAME THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

## The New Philosophy of Education



### Adolphe Quetelet (b. 1796) – Theory of the Average Man

Applied astronomy measurement principles to man.

Believed that all men were failed copies of a perfect, "Average Man."

Believed that the greatest men in history were the closest to the Average Man of their place and time.

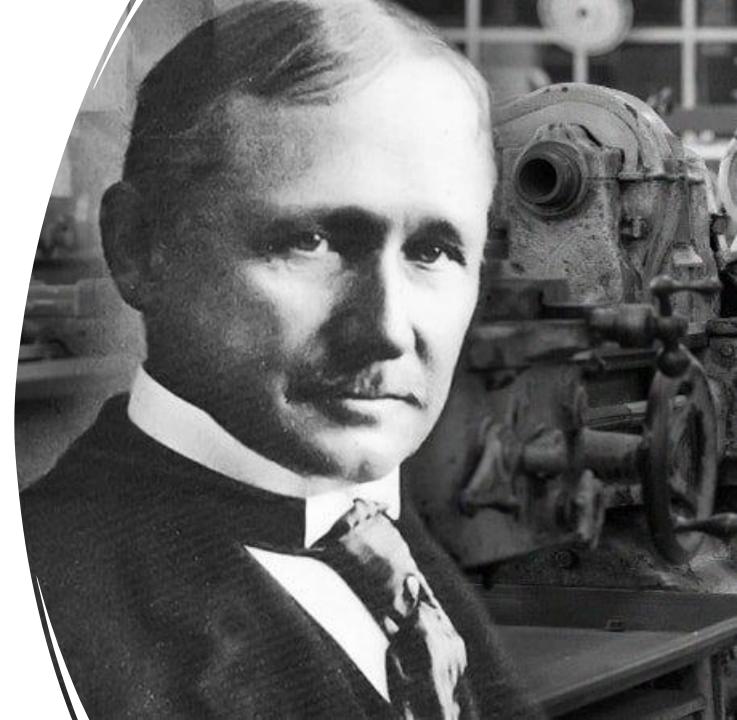


## Francis Galton (B. 1822) -Rank and Eugenics

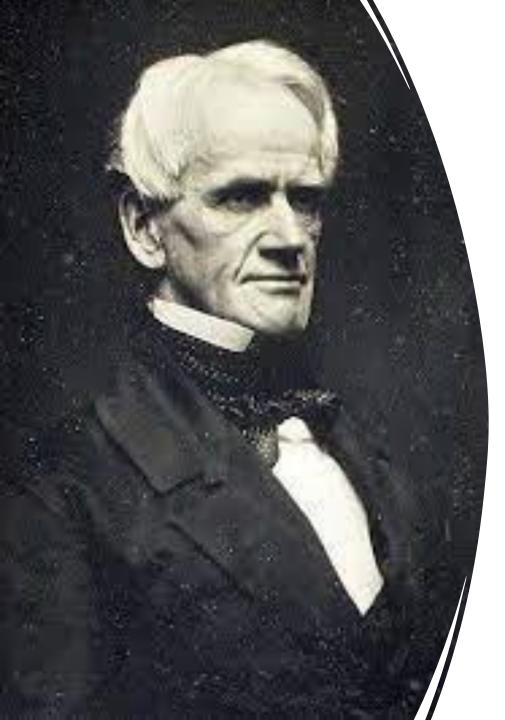
- Born into the English upper class, which he believed were superior physically, intellectually, morally, etc.
- Pioneer of eugenics: He thought growing democratization was harming Britain, thought a social caste system was superior, and used Quetelet's ideas to "prove" it.
- While Quetelet believed the average was the ideal, Galton thought average was just that average. He believe the ruling class and great men and women in history represented the "Eminent" while the rabble represented the "Imbecile". "Mediocre" was average. He categorized humanity into 14 groups. He claimed that a person's rank was consistent across all measures (intelligence, athletic ability, etc.)
- Galton's "law of deviation from the average" said what mattered most was how much an individual deviated from the average
- Galton's idea about rank to the world be storm in the 1890s and "by the early 1900s the notion that people could be sorted into distinct bins of ability from low to high had infiltrated virtually all the social and behavioral sciences."

Scientific Management: Frederick Taylor puts ideas into practice

- One of the most important intellectual figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. His ideas of Scientific Management propelled industry through a focus on efficiency.
- Argued that an organization composed of "individuals of mediocre ability" working under strict policies and procedures would be more productive than an organization of experts.
- "In the past the man was first, in the future the system must be first."



## The New Practice of Education



## The rise of common "average" schools

- Horace Mann: Born 1796
- Part of the Know-Nothing Movement with James Blaine
- Considered father of public schools
- PURPOSE: Creating a common set of "acceptable" values

Henry C. King Professor in Obertin

COMMITTEE

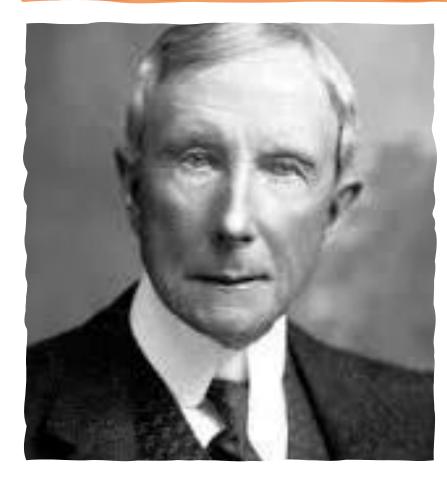
**OF TEN** 

## NEA LED EFFORT TO COMPREHENSIVELY OVERHAUL EDUCATION DELIVER AND PEDAGOGY

e Committee of Sen

PURPOSE: STANDARDIZING THE DELIVERY OF CLASSROOM EDUCATION

## John D. Rockefeller - 1912



• "We shall not try to make these people or any of their children into philosophers or men of learning or of science. We are not to raise up from among them authors, orators, poets, or men of letters. We shall not search for great artists, painters, musicians ... Nor lawyers, preachers, politicians, statesmen, of whom we have ample supply .... The task that we set before ourselves is very simple as well as very beautiful ....

• we will organize our children into a little community and teach them to do in a perfect way the things their fathers and mothers are doing in an imperfect way"



## Rosenwald Schools – 1917

• The **Rosenwald School** project built more than 5,000 <u>schools</u>, shops, and teacher homes in the <u>United</u> <u>States</u> primarily for the education of <u>African-</u> <u>American</u> children in the <u>South</u> during the early 20th century. The project was the product of the partnership of <u>Julius Rosenwald</u>, a Jewish-American <u>clothier</u> who became part-owner and president of <u>Sears</u>, <u>Roebuck and</u> <u>Company</u> and the African-American leader, educator, and philanthropist <u>Booker T. Washington</u>, who was president of the <u>Tuskegee Institute</u>.<sup>[1]</sup>

• PURPOSE: Empowering Black families with schools run by Black educators mainly for Black families



# The Rise of the Centralized Role of Federal Government (1954-Current)

- Brown v. Board
- ESEA Act of 1965
- Full Cabinet Office under Carter
- Nation at Risk Started the era of reform
- Goals 2000
- NCLB
- Race to the Top
- ESSA
- **PURPOSE**: Measurement, equitable funding, homogenization



#### 1900 to 1910:

**1950S:** 

Expanded science and

Expanded music and art

Stronger foreign language

math education

Safety education

Driver's education

- Nutrition
- Immunization
- Health

#### 1910 to 1930:

- Physical education
- The Practical Arts/Domestic Science/Home economics
- Vocational education
- Mandated school transportation

#### 1960s:

- Advanced Placement programs
- Head Start
- Title I
- Adult education
- Consumer education
- Career education
- Peace, leisure, and recreation education

#### 198os:

Computer education

requirements

Sex education

Global education

education

- Multicultural/Ethnic education
- Nonsexist education
- Bilingual education
- Teen pregnancy awareness
- Hispanic heritage education
- Early childhood education
- Jump Start, Early Start, Even Start, and Prime Start
- Full-day kindergarten
- Preschool programs for children at risk
- After-school programs
- Stranger/danger education
- Antismoking education
- Sexual abuse prevention education
- Expanded health, psychological services
- Child abuse monitoring

#### 1990S:

- Conflict resolution and peer mediation
- HIV/AIDS education
- CPR training
- Death education
- Inclusion
- Expanded computer education
- Distance learning
- Tech Prep, School to Work programs
- Technical Adequacy
- Post-secondary enrollment options
- Concurrent enrollment options
- Expanded Talented and Gifted opportunities
- At risk and dropout prevention
- Homeless education
- Gang education
- Service learning
- Bus, bicycle, gun and water safety education

#### 1940s:

- Business education
- Art and music
- Speech and drama
- Half-day kindergarten
- School lunch programs

#### 1970s:

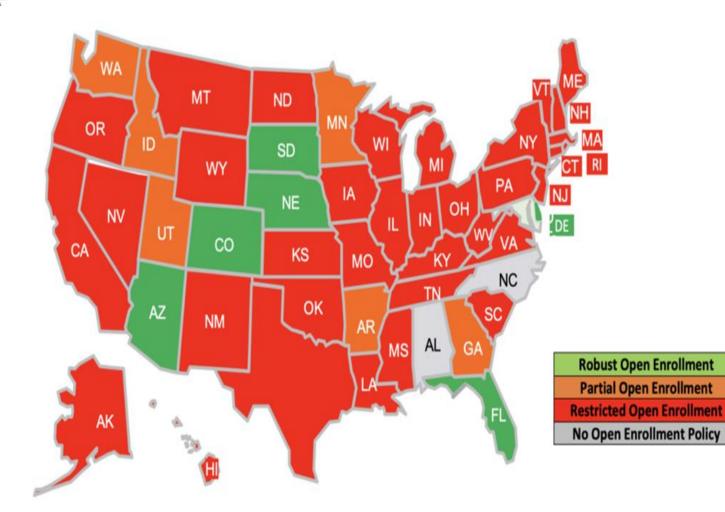
- Drug, alcohol abuse education
- Parenting education
- Behavior adjustment classes
- Character education
- Special education
- Title IX programs
- Environmental education
- Women's studies
- African-American heritage
  education
- School breakfast programs

#### 2000 to 2010

- Bully prevention
- Anti-harassment policies
- Expanded early childcare and wrap around programs
- Elevator and escalator safety instruction
- Body Mass Index evaluation
- Organ donor education and awareness programs
- Personal financial literacy
- Entrepreneurial and innovation skills development
- Media literacy development
- Contextual learning skill development
- Health and wellness programs

## The Rise of School Choice and the Shift to Universal Choice!

#### **PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT POLICIES**



- 43 states have state policies explicitly permitting interdistrict open enrollment.
- 19 states and the District of Columbia require intradistrict open enrollment, while 11 states and Puerto Rico have voluntary programs.
- A handful of states prioritize students who qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch or students in low-performing schools for admission, including California and Colorado.
- Some states explicitly use open enrollment as a means for school integration, including Connecticut and Nebraska.
- In a few states, open enrollment is a function of geographic access to schools. For example, Georgia and Montana both require open enrollment for students facing lengthy transportation time or geographic barriers to attending their assigned schools.



### **45 States**

D.C., PUERTO RICO, AND GUAM HAVE CHARTER LAWS



STUDENTS ATTEND CHARTER SCHOOLS

## 7,800

CHARTER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES NATIONWIDE

## \$440 Million

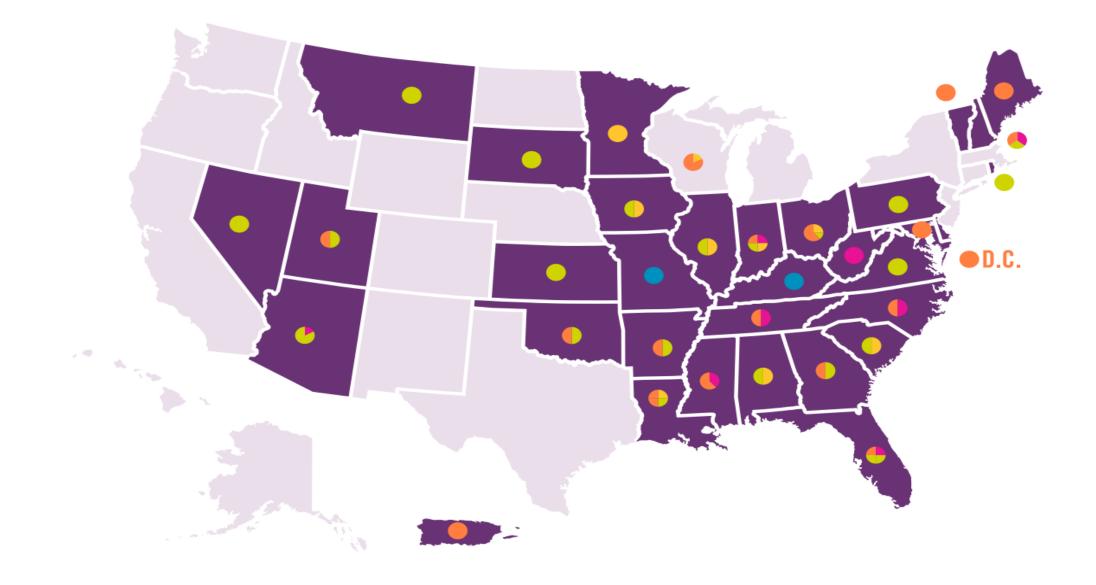
IN FEDERAL CSP FUNDS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

205,600

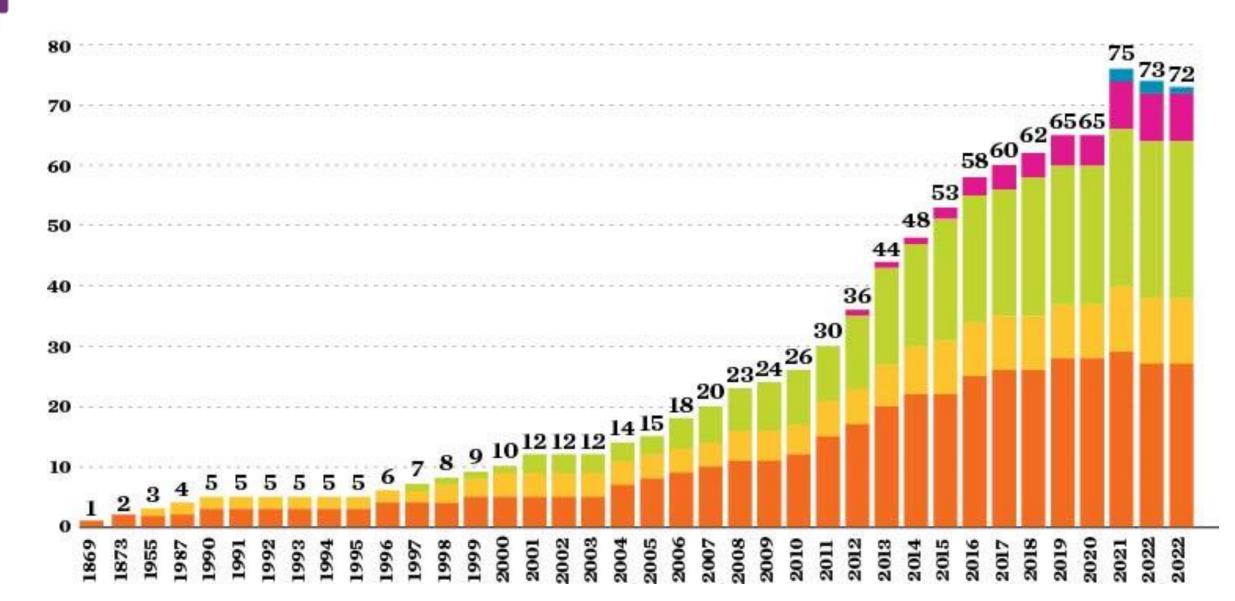
CHARTER SCHOOL TEACHERS

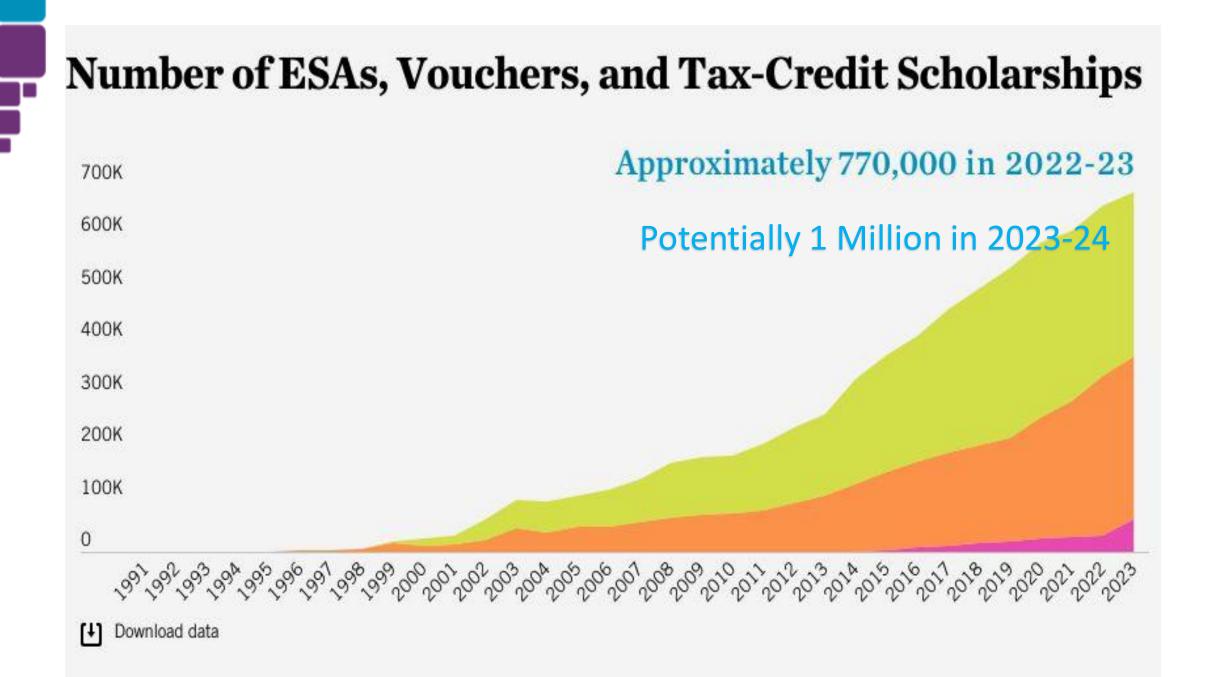
SOURCE: NCES

**33 STATES** (plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico) **are Using School Choice in 2023** 



### Number of Currently Enacted Private School Choice Programs by Year Launched





## In 2011, 13 states enacted 19 school choice programs. 11 of those programs were expansions, and 8 of those programs were brand new, including Indiana's massive voucher bill that was the largest of its kind.

### 2023 – Number of Bills Introduced In United States

This year, there were 111 choice bills introduced in 40 states specifically relating to Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), Vouchers, Tax-Credit Scholarships, and Refundable Tax Credits. Seventy-nine percent of those bills were related to ESAs.

In terms of access for American K-12 students, the growth is astounding. <u>Nearly 1-in-5 students</u> live in a state with universal (or near-universal) choice. After the most recent expansions, approximately 18 million students—or 37%—nationwide are eligible for a private choice program. This is a 46% increase in access to private school choice since just two years ago.

#### **Growth of Parental Educational Choice in 2023**

ates Enacted New Programs in 20	023
Туре	Universal
ESA	Yes
ESA	Yes
ESA	No
Tax Credit Scholarship	No
Refundable Tax Credit	Yes
ESA	No
ESA	Yes
	Type      ESA      ESA      ESA      Tax Credit Scholarship      Refundable Tax Credit      ESA

#### **Growth of Parental Educational Choice in 2023**

State	Туре	Universal
Alabama	Tax Credit	No
Arkansas	Tax Credit	No
Florida*	Voucher > ESA	Yes
Florida	Tax Credit Scholarship > TC ESA	Yes
Indiana	Voucher	Near Universal
Indiana	ESA	No
Indiana	Tax Credit Scholarship	No
New Hampshire	ESA	No
Ohio	Voucher	Yes
Tennessee	ESA	No
Wisconsin	Voucher	No

\*Florida converted its voucher to a universal ESA and its Tax Credit Scholarship to a universal Tax Credit

ESA

#### **Growth of Universal Parental Educational Choice**

	All Universal Programs	
State	Туре	Year Universal
Arizona	ESA	2022
Arkansas	ESA	2023
Florida	ESA	2023
Florida	Tax Credit ESA	2023
lowa	ESA	2023
Ohio	Voucher	2023
Oklahoma	Refundable Tax Credit	2023
Utah	ESA	2023
West Virginia	ESA	2022
Indiana	Voucher	Near Universal 2023
North Carolina	Voucher	Potentially 2023

#### **10 Potential States with Universal Choice Programs**

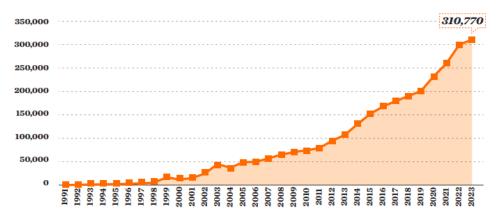
## School Vouchers

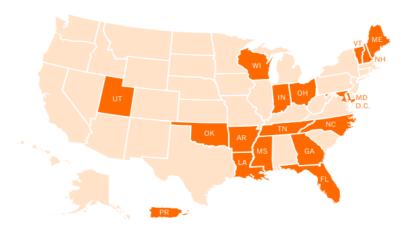
Vouchers give parents the freedom to choose a private school for their children, using all or part of the public funding set aside for their children's education. Under such a program, funds typically expended by a school district would be allocated to a participating family in the form of a voucher to pay partial or full tuition for their child's private school, including both religious and non-religious options.



(National)

#### Number of Students Using Vouchers





#### **Program Index**

AR Succeed Scholarship Program
D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.
FL Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (Voucher)
GA Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program
IN Choice Scholarship Program
LA Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program
LA School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities
ME Town Tuitioning Program
MD Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program
MS Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program.
MS Nate Rogers Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program
NH Town Tuitioning Program
NC Opportunity Scholarships
OH Cleveland Scholarship Program
OH Autism Scholarship Program
OH Educational Choice Scholarship Program
OH Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program
OH Income-Based Scholarship Program
OK Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities
PR Free School Selection Program
TN Education Savings Account Pilot Program
UT Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship Program
VT Town Tuitioning Program
WI Milwaukee Parental Choice Program
WI Parental Private School Choice Program (Racine)
WI Parental Choice Program (Statewide)
WI Special Needs Scholarship Program

## Tax-Credit Scholarships

Tax-credit scholarships allow taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships. Eligible taxpayers can include both individuals and businesses. In some states, scholarship-giving nonprofits also provide innovation grants to public schools and/or transportation assistance to students who choose alternative public schools.

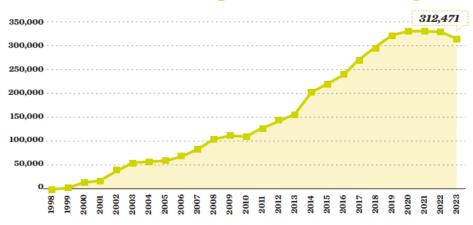


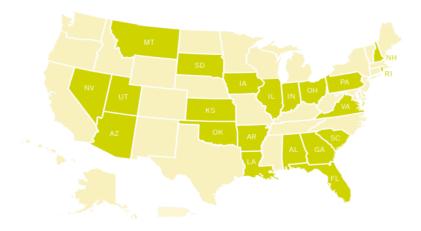
**312,47** Total Students/ Scholarships **\$3,825** Average Amount



(National)

#### Number of Students Using Tax-Credit Scholarships





#### **Program Index**

AL Education Scholarship Program
AZ Original Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program
AZ Low-Income Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program
AZ Lexie's Law for Disabled and Displaced Students Tax Credit Scholarship Program
AZ "Switcher" Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program
AR Philanthropic Investment in Arkansas Kids Scholarship Program
FL Tax Credit Scholarship Program
FL HopeScholarshipProgram
GA Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit
IL Invest in Kids Program.
IN School Scholarship Tax Credit
IA School Tuition Organization Tax Credit
KS Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program
LA Tuition Donation Credit Program
MT Tax Credits for Contributions to Student Scholarship Organizations
NV EducationalChoiceScholarshipProgram
NH Education Tax Credit Program
OH Ohio Tax-Credit Scholarship Program
OK Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships
PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program
PA Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program
RI Tax Credits for Contributions to Scholarship Organizations
SC Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund
SD Partners in Education Tax Credit Program
UT Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship Program
VA Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits Program

### Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

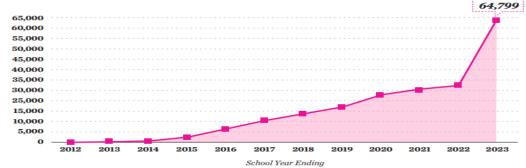
ESAs allow parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a deposit of public funds into governmentauthorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds—which families generally access via an online platform—can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized learning services and materials. Some ESAs, but not all, even allow students to use their funds to pay for a combination of public school courses and private services.

**13** Programs

64,799

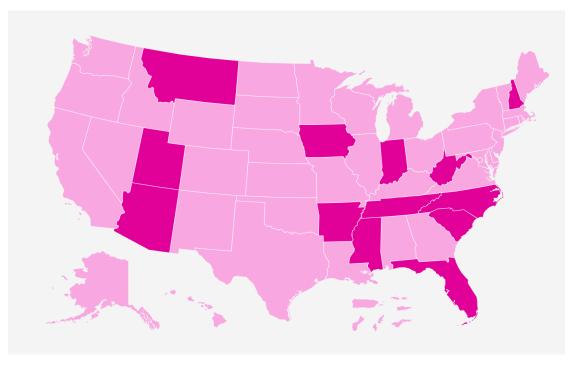


#### Number of Students Using ESAs



#### **Thirteen States with ESAs**

Check out the list below for quick links to those program details, which include approved expense types, family eligibility tests, participation numbers, funding amounts and more.



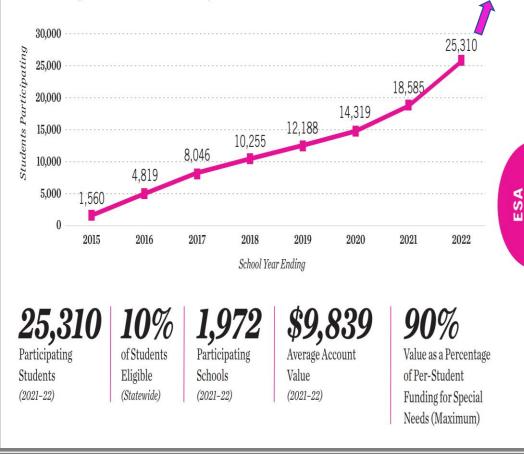
### Arizona



#### **Program Participation** Enrollment in Arizona's education savings accounts program more than doubled this year. 35.000 30.471 30.000 25.000 20.000 10,865 9,669 15.000 Stu 10.000 5,091 6,5 127 761 1,334 2,505 3,547 ESA 5,000 2020 2021 2022 2023 School Year Ending 30,471 100% 398 \$7,000 **90**% of Students Participating Participating Estimated Average Maximum Account Value as Account Value Students Eligible Schools a Percentage of State-Level (2022–23, excluding students (2022 - 23)(2022-23) Public School Per-Student Statewide with special needs) Spending \$11,332 Average Account Value (2022-23, including students with special needs)

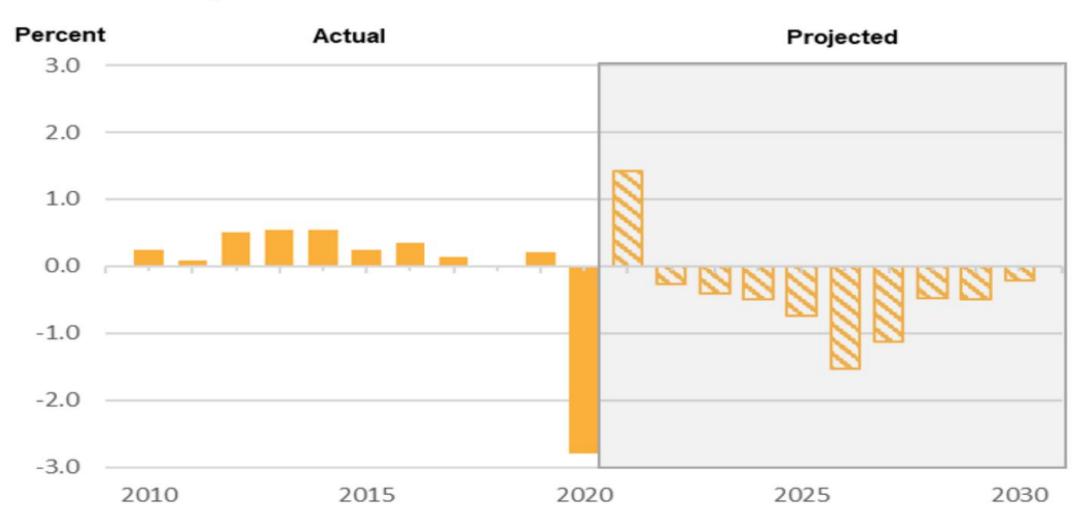
#### **Program Participation**

Enrollment in Florida's Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities Program increased 36 percent since the last school year.



# The Challenges Ahead for Education

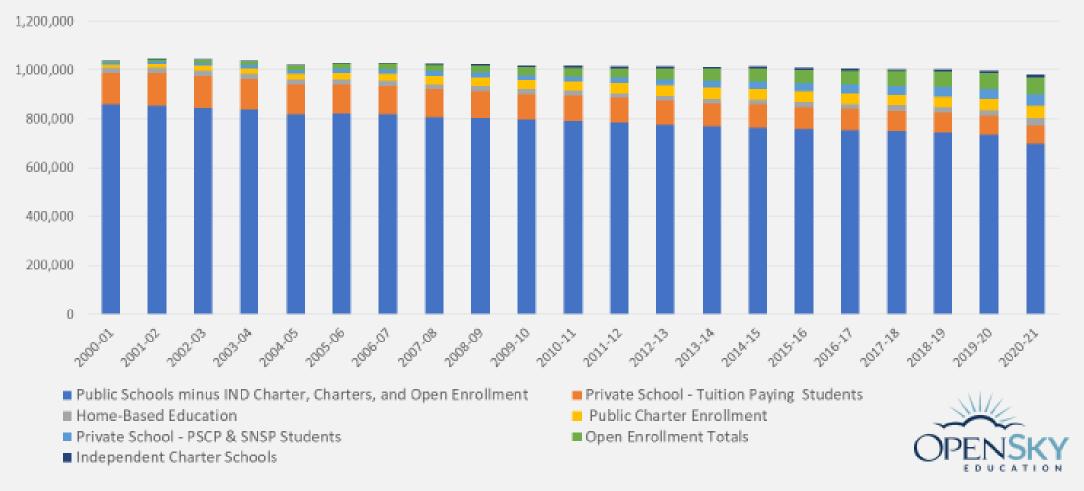
# Figure 1. Annual percentage change in enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools: Fall 2010 to fall 2030



# 43 out of 50 states will see a decline in enrollment

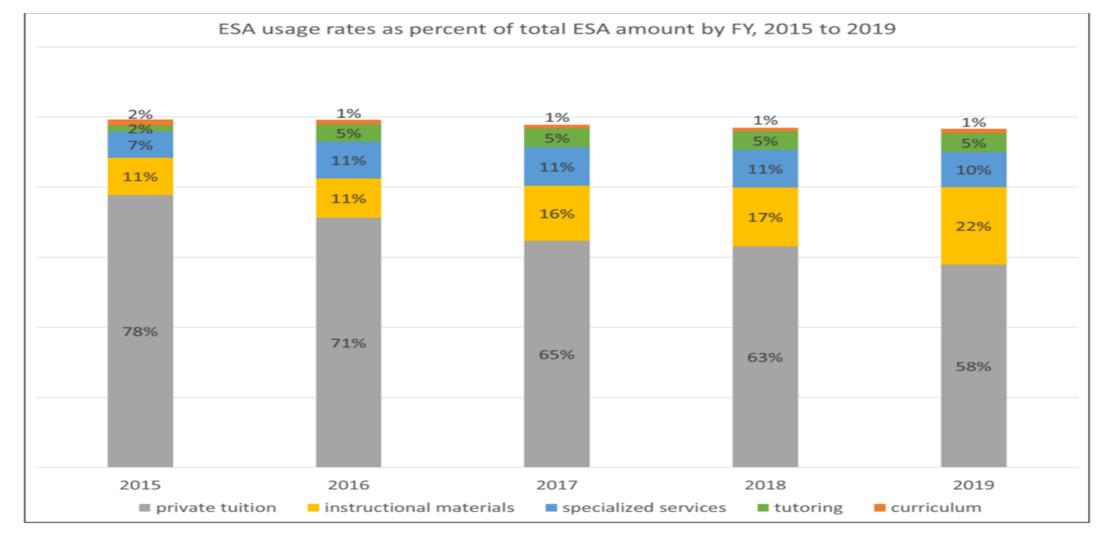
# Impact of School Choice in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Enrollment Totals by Category



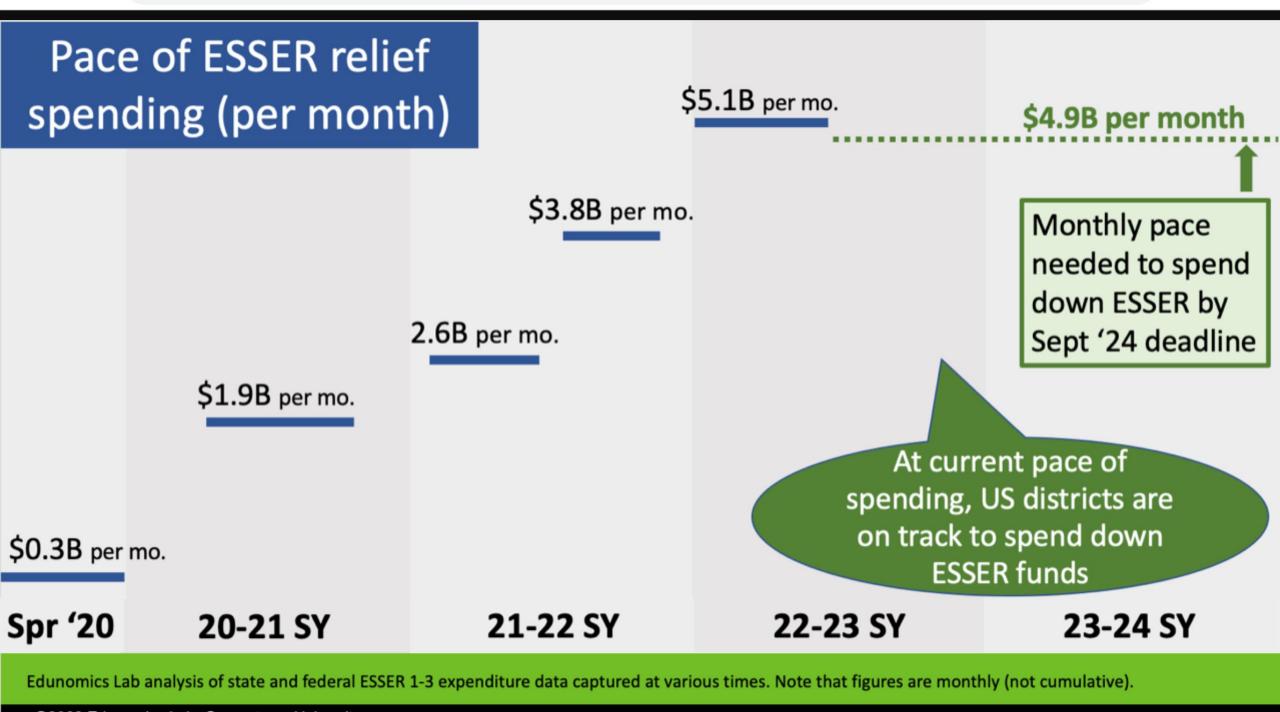
# There will be more competition over time

#### Figure 2: ESA usage rates as percent of total ESA amount by FY, 2015 to 2019



Source: Author's estimates; Step Up for Students

# Parents customize more over time



©2022 Edunomics Lab. Georgetown University

#### School District ESSER 3 Spending: Detail by State

Categories of spending detail and data definitions vary by state. We have taken some liberty in matching those definitions to the selected categories below.

#### Stronger match to column header

Partial match to column header

For a complete list of available data by state, visit the ESSER Expenditure Dashboard at edunomicslab.org/esser-spending/. Numbers in cells correspond to footnotes.

For questions or feedback, email Katie Silberstein at ks1747@georgetown.edu. Revised: 4/6/23

	Spending By District Available in a Timely Way	20% Learning Loss vs. 80% Flexible	DETAIL ON WHAT ACTIVITIES / SERVICES WERE DELIVERED					DETAIL ON WHAT WAS PURCHASED		
			Tutoring	Summer Learning	Lengthen Day or Year	SEL, Mental Health	Facilities	Labor (Salary, Benefits)	Supplies / Materials	Contracts, Purchased Services
AK							13			24
AL										
AR							13			
AZ	1			34	34		13		32	25
CA							14			
co										
СТ										
DE		2					13			
DC		2				9				
FL										
GA										
HI		2			6			16		
IA		3			1					
ID		3			1		12			25
IL					1	11	13			25
IN							13			25
KS										
KY	1									
LA							13			26
MA										
MD	1					10	13 13	17		
ME	1					11	13			
MI							13			25
MN	1						13			25
MO					7	11	13			24
MS MT	1		4				13			24
NC	-		4				13			24
ND							13			25
NE							-13			20
NH					-	12	13			26
NJ							13			26
NM							13			20
NV					1		13	18	21	26
NY					1					
OH					1					
OK					1		13			33
OR			5			11	13	19	22	27
PA	1				1					
RI					1		13			26
SC				8	8		13			
SD							15			25
TN					1					
тх					1		13	20		28
UT	1				1					
VA					1					
VT										
WA				8	8					29
WI				8	8					
wv	1						13			30
WY	1			8	8		13	19	23	31
					-					

# The Opportunities Ahead for Schools

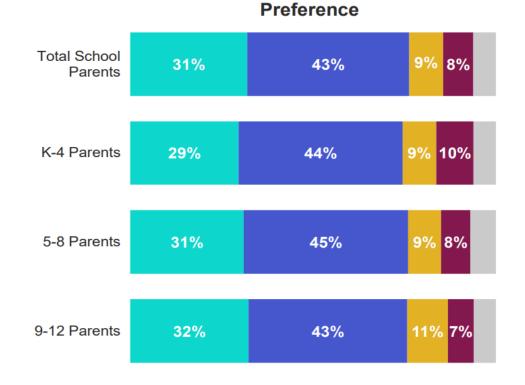
# Parents want diverse set of options

# Parents have a diverse range of schooling preferences. They are slightly more likely to prefer regular public schools over private schools.

If given the option, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

If given the option, and neither financial costs nor transportation were factors, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

Private School Regular Public School Home School Charter School Don't Know/No Opinion





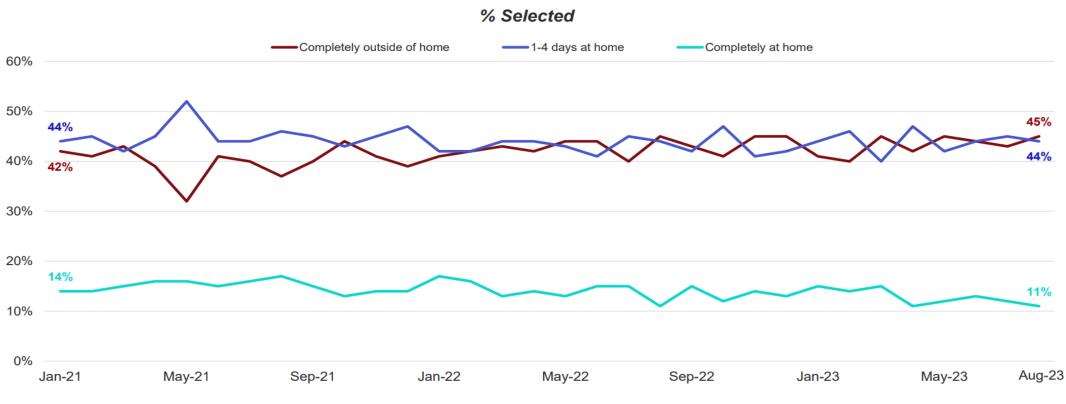
#### Preference without cost & transportation factors

# Parents want more flexibility

#### More than half of parents prefer having their child learn at home at least one day per week.

In order to provide the best education for your child/children, what would be your preferred weekly schedule and location between schooling at home with a parent/teacher/tutor, or outside the home?



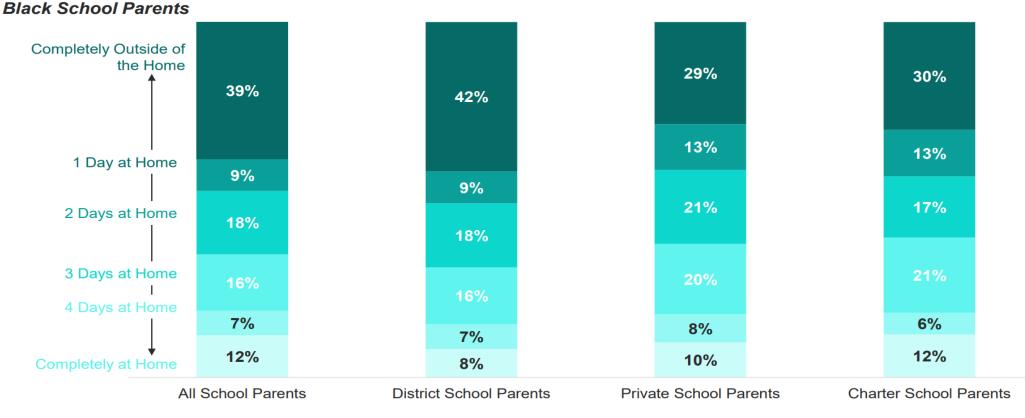


MORNING CONSULT | ed CHOICE

# **Especially Black parents**

## Six out of 10 Black parents indicate they would like to have at least one day of school per week at home.

After the pandemic, if given the option, to what extent would you prefer schooling to be scheduled each week at home with a parent or tutor to provide the best education for your child?







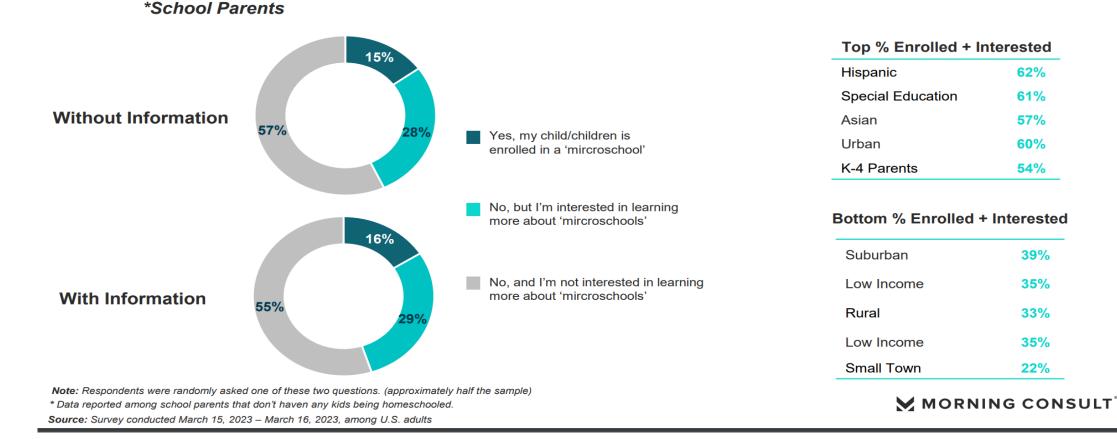
# Parents are interested in micro schooling

Less than one in five school parents report having a child enrolled in a 'microschool'. Almost one-half of parents - regardless of whether or not they were given additional information - are interested in learning more about them.

'Microschools' are small learning environments in K-12 education, typically enrolling no more than 25 students. Do you have a child currently enrolled in a 'microschool'?

'Microschools' are small learning environments in K-12 education intentionally having enrollments of no more than 25 students. These small schools are organized as shared learning for homeschool children, as private schools, or even using public charter or regular public school spaces. Students attend microschools full-time. Microschools can be required to follow state and local rules depending on public/private/home school status. Do you have a child currently enrolled in a 'microschool'?

ed CHOICE

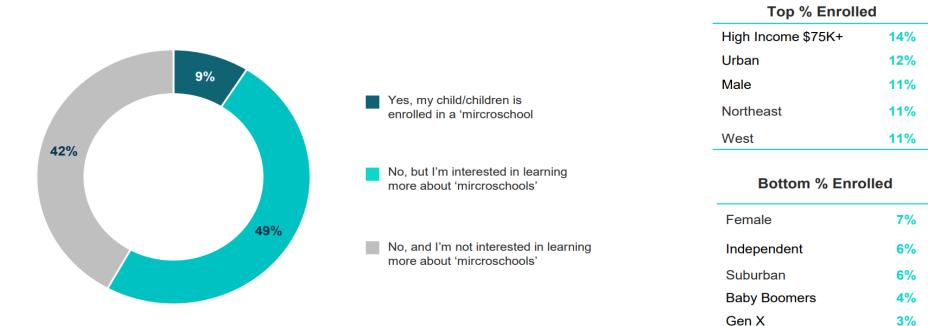


# **Especially Black parents**

Almost one in ten Black parents have a child currently enrolled in a 'microschool'. Those with high incomes and those who live in urban areas are the most likely to enroll their children in one.

Do you have a child currently enrolled in a 'microschool'?

#### **Black School Parents**



MORNING CONSULT

ed CHOICE

# The Future of Education Transformation

## WHAT REFORMERS HAVE WORKED ON FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS

Portfolio	Standards &	Magnet	Charter
Schools	Curriculum	Schools	Schools
A-F Grading	STEM	Teacher	Testing &
	Education	Evaluations	Accountability
Achievement Districts	Private School Choice	Merit Pay	Collective Bargaining Refrorm

## WHAT PARENTS WANT



