



# *ed* CHOICE

## Educational Choice: Who Has It, Who Wants It, and Who Supports It

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September 18th, 2023

# The EdChoice Mission

Advancing educational  
freedom and choice for all  
as a pathway to successful  
lives and a stronger  
society.





# School Choice: What Is It?



# Types of Private Educational Choice Programs

## EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Publicly funded, government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes.

## TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Taxpayers receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships.

## TAX CREDIT ESAs

ESAs funded through tax credit scholarships.

## SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Pays partial or full tuition for their child's private school

## REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

State income tax relief for approved educational expenses. Parents receive up to the full credit even if its value exceeds what they owe the state in taxes.

## INDIVIDUAL TAX CREDITS/DEDUCTIONS

Income tax relief for approved educational expenses.



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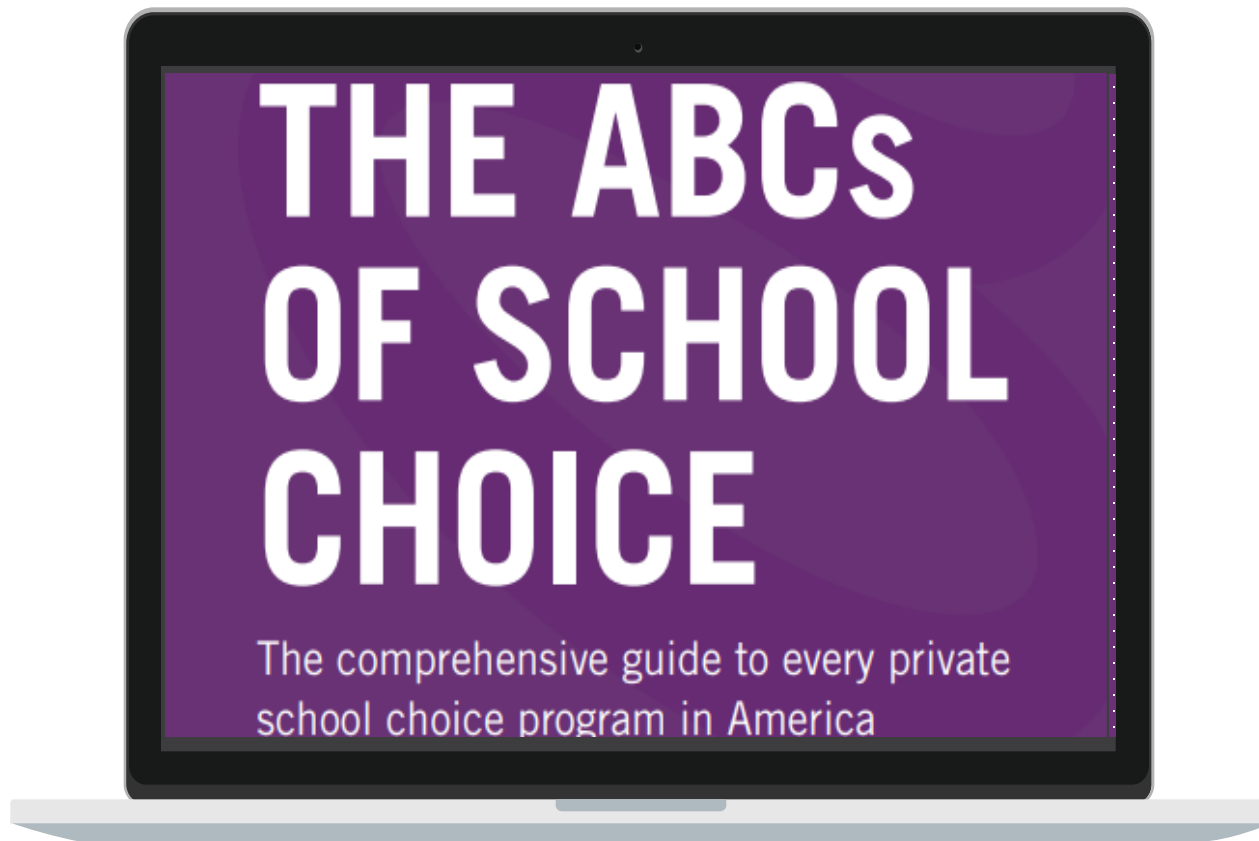
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# School Choice: Who Has It?

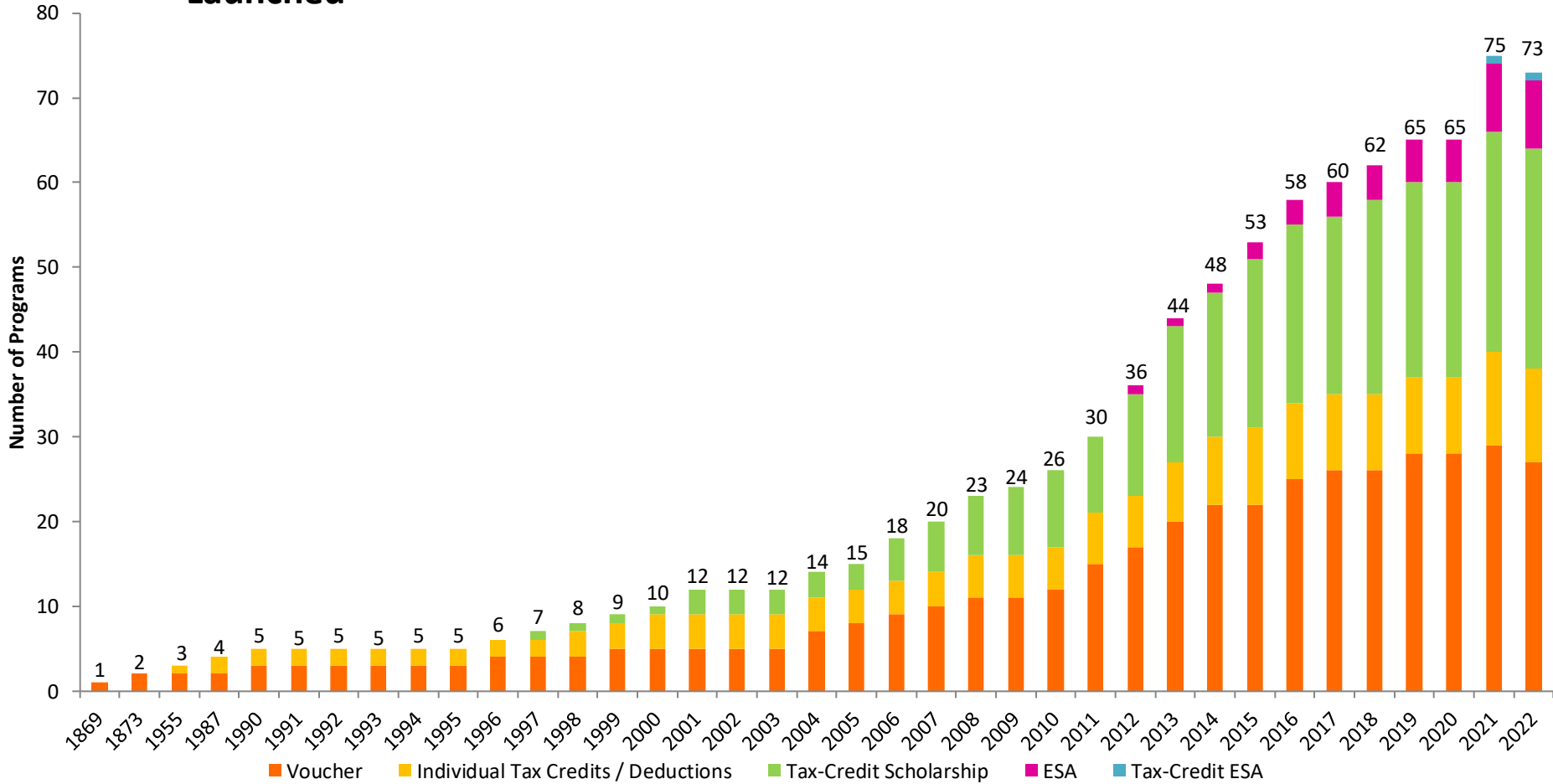




# THE ABCs OF SCHOOL CHOICE

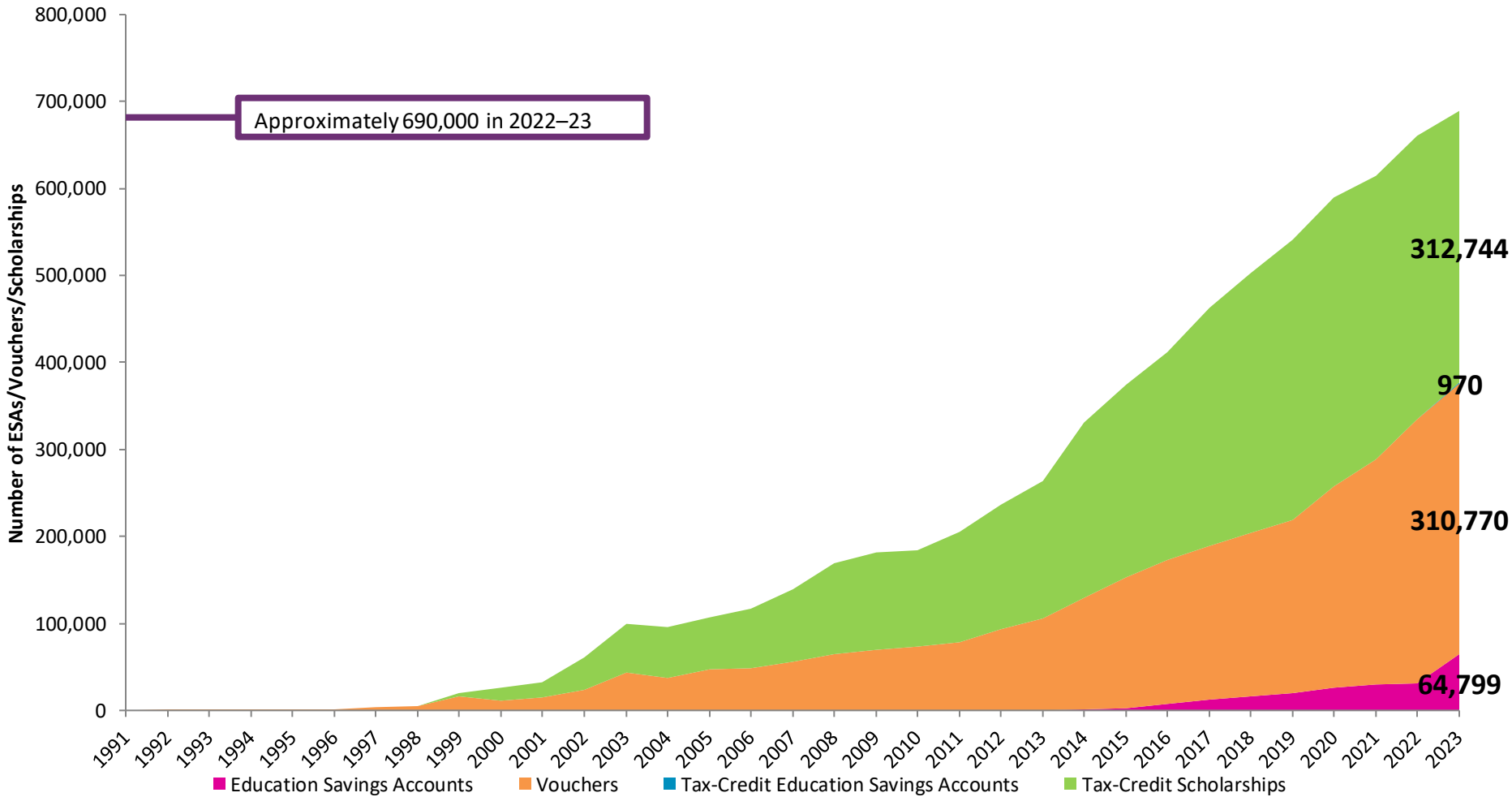
The comprehensive guide to every private  
school choice program in America

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





# Number of ESAs, Vouchers, Tax-Credit ESAs, and Tax-Credit Scholarships



# Who uses ESAs?

Indiana >

## Education Scholarship Account Program

Education Savings Account (ESA) | Enacted 2021 | Launched 2022

Indiana's Education Scholarship Account Program is an education savings account (ESA) where students with special needs receive a portion of their assigned state education funding for private school tuition or other educational expenses, including special needs services and therapies, individual classes, testing fees and transportation. Learn more about the program's details on this page, including eligibility, funding, regulations, legal history and more.

*We do not administer this program.*

ELIGIBILITY TEST

APPLY

STATE GROUPS

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**4th**

Indiana's Fourth Educational Choice Program

**6th**

Nation's Sixth Publicly Funded Education Savings Account Program

**14%**

of Indiana Students Eligible

**173**

Participating Students (2022-23)

**\$17,355**

Average Account Value (2022-23)

**161%**

Value as a Percentage of Public School Per-Student Spending

Table 3b. Percentage of Participation by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Percentage of Students
Black - African American	23.67%
Hispanic Ethnicity and of any race	7.69%
Multiracial (two or more races)	5.92%
White	62.72%
Total	100.00%

Table 4b. Percentage of Participation by Geographic Area

Geographic Area	Percentage of Students
Town	7.70%
Suburb	42.01%
Rural	11.24%
City	39.05%
Total	100.00%

# Who uses Vouchers?

## Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program

Voucher | Enacted 2007 | Launched 2007

The Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program allows any student with a disability whose parents are unhappy with their assigned public school to receive a voucher to attend private school. Learn more about the program's details on this page, including eligibility, funding, regulations, legal history and more.

*We do not administer this program.*

ELIGIBILITY TEST

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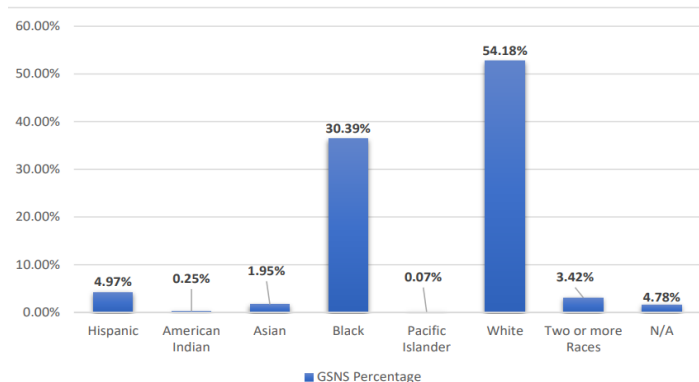
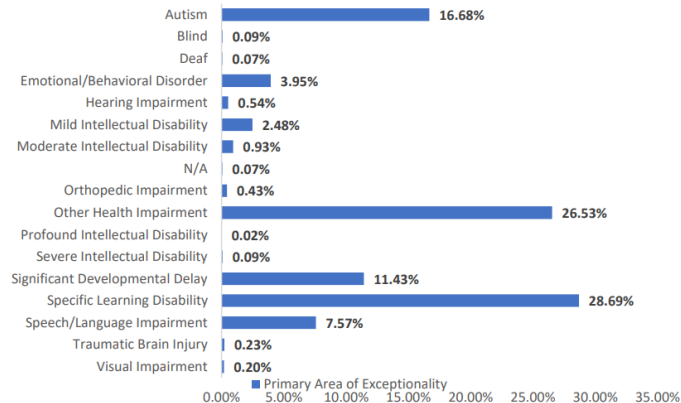
**5,303**  
Participating Students  
(2020-21)

**12%**  
of Students Eligible  
Statewide

**256**  
Participating  
Schools (2020-21)

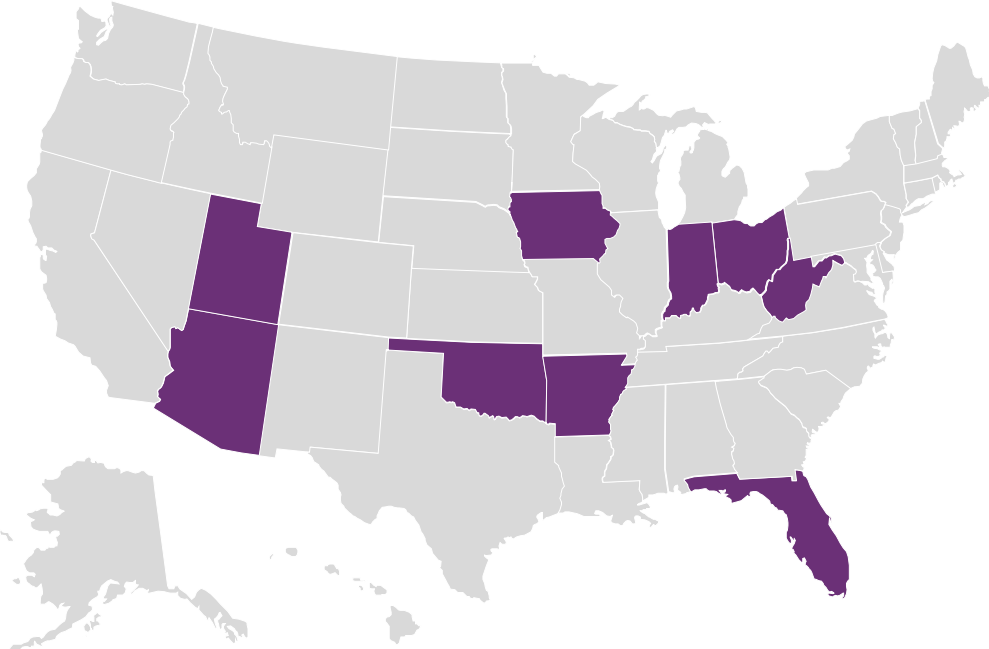
**\$6,473**  
Average Account Value  
(2020-21)

**54%**  
Value as a Percentage of Public  
School Per-student Spending





**Universal  
Private School  
Choice  
Programs  
(August 2023)**



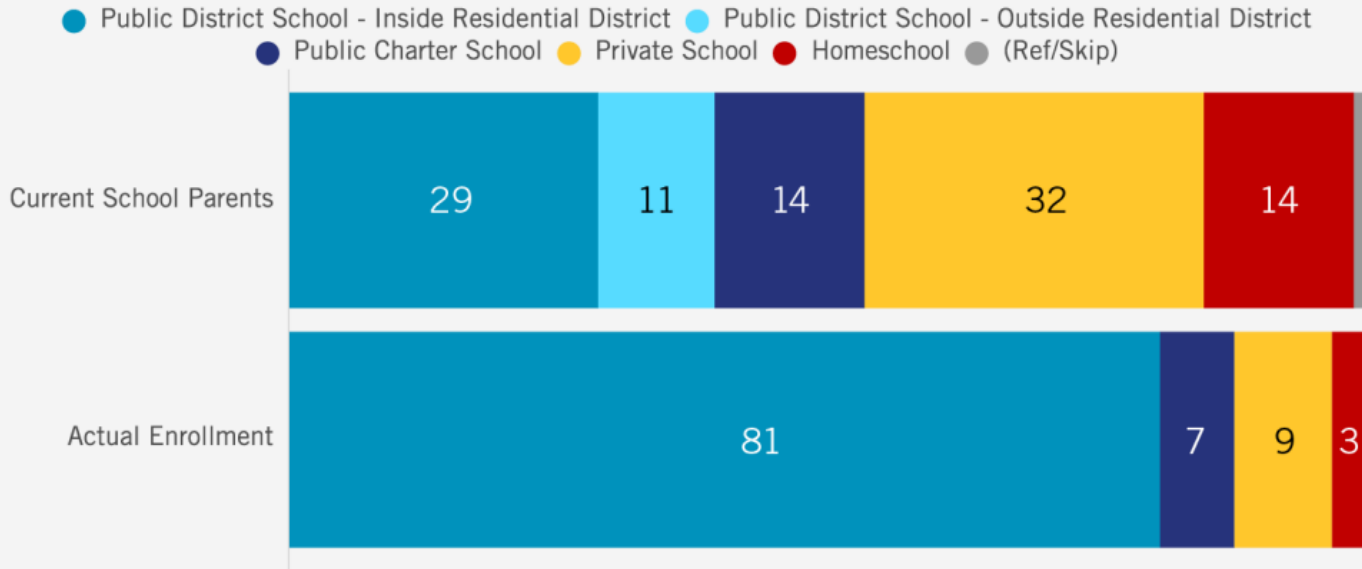
State	Programs	EdChoice Share	Other Private	District Share	Charter Share	Homeschool Share
Louisiana	4	1%	14%	69%	11%	2%
Mississippi	3	<1%	8%	88%	<1%	3%
South Carolina	3	<1%	6%	74%	6%	4%
Alabama	2	<1%	8%	87%	<1%	3%
Minnesota	2	N.A	8%	79%	7%	3%
Pennsylvania	2	3%	9%	75%	8%	2%
Missouri	1	<1%	10%	84%	3%	3%
Nebraska	1	-	10%	78%	-	4%
Colorado	-	-	5%	78%	14%	1%
Connecticut	-	-	10%	80%	2%	<1%
Kentucky	-	-	10%	81%	-	3%
Massachusetts	-	-	10%	81%	5%	1%
North Dakota	-	-	8%	89%	-	3%
Washington	-	-	8%	87%	<1%	3%
Wyoming	-	-	2%	93%	1%	4%

# School Choice: Who Wants It?

# SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE VS. ENROLLMENT, 2023

There is a substantial disconnect between parents' schooling preferences and actual enrollment patterns. More than 70 percent of parents would choose a type of school other than their local public district school.

*% of Respondents*



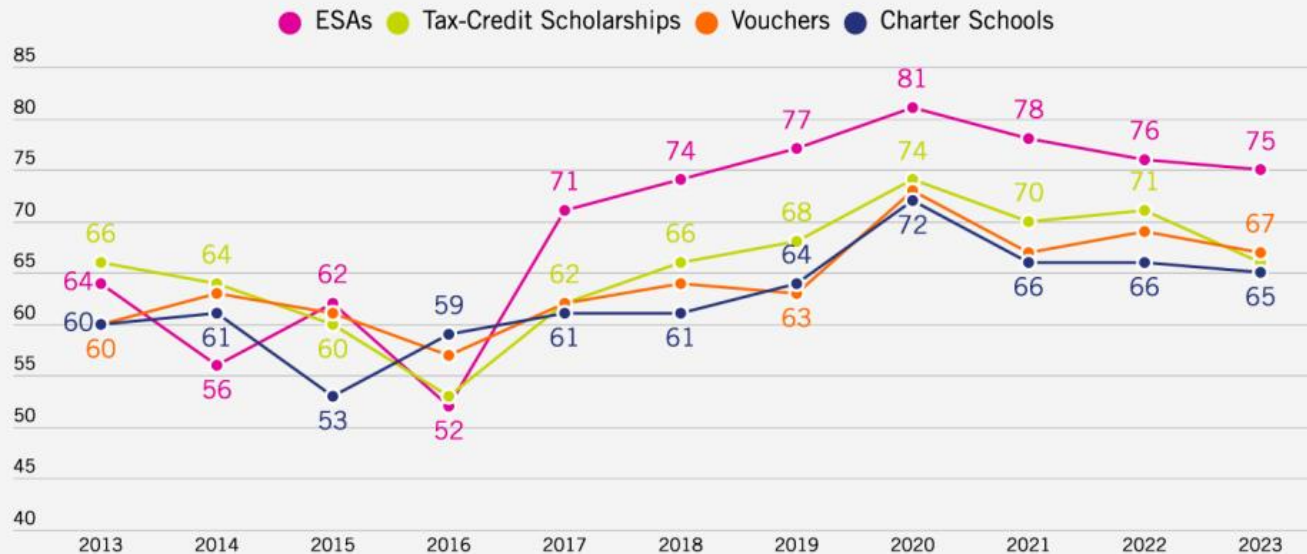
*Notes:* The percentages in this chart reflect a composite that averages split samples' responses to two slightly different versions of this question. Responses within parentheses were volunteered: "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question. NCES does not split out inter- and intra-district choice.

*Sources:* Authors' calculations; Drew Catt and Manasa Swaminathan, January 23, 2023, *2023 EdChoice Share: Where Are America's Students Educated?*, EdChoice; *2023 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 18–May 2, 2023), Q13

# PUBLIC FAVORABILITY OF K-12 CHOICE POLICIES, 2013-2023

At least two-thirds of Americans support four types of educational choice policies. But levels decreased slightly since last year.

*% of General Population*



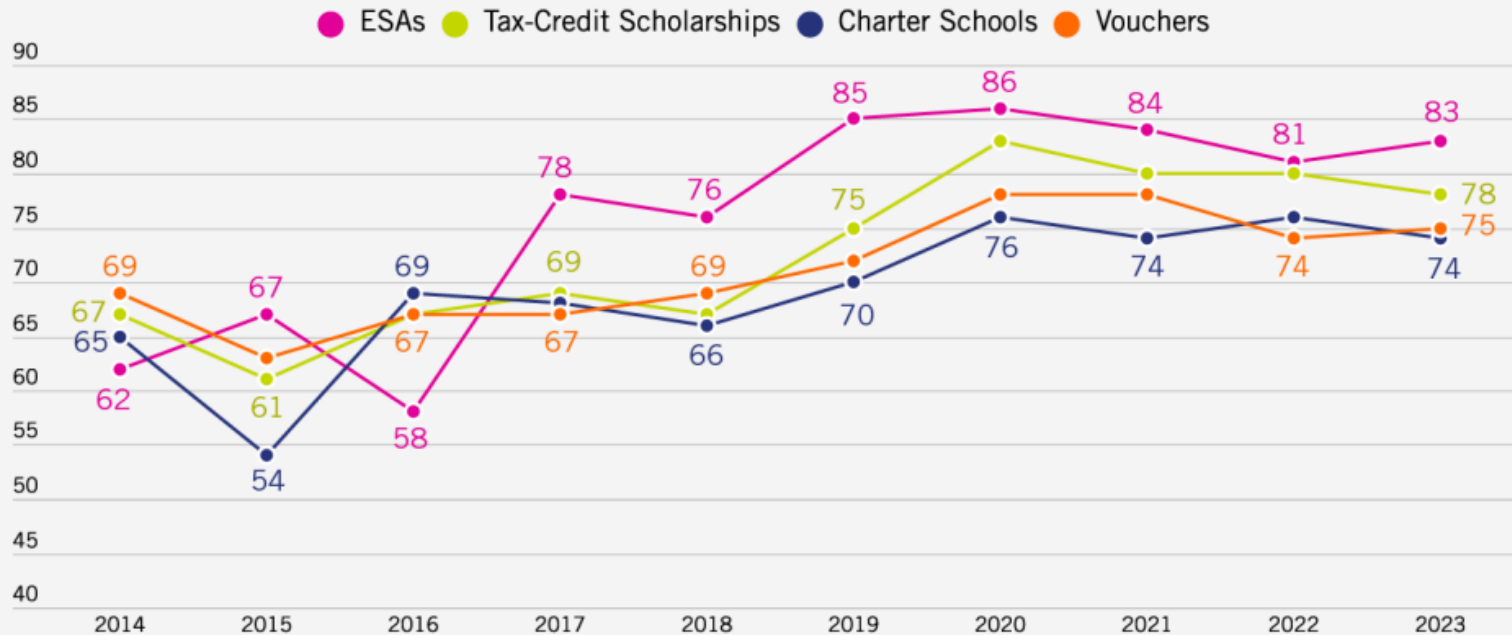
*Notes:* From 2013–2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an education savings account (ESA) program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2023.

*Sources:* EdChoice, *2023 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 18–May 2, 2023), Q17, Q19, Q21, and Q25; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2022*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

# PARENT FAVORABILITY OF K-12 CHOICE POLICIES, 2014-2023

Education savings accounts (ESAs) remain parents' most popular educational choice policy for the seventh consecutive year.

*% of Current School Parents*



# Split-sample question: Universal vs. Targeted ESAs



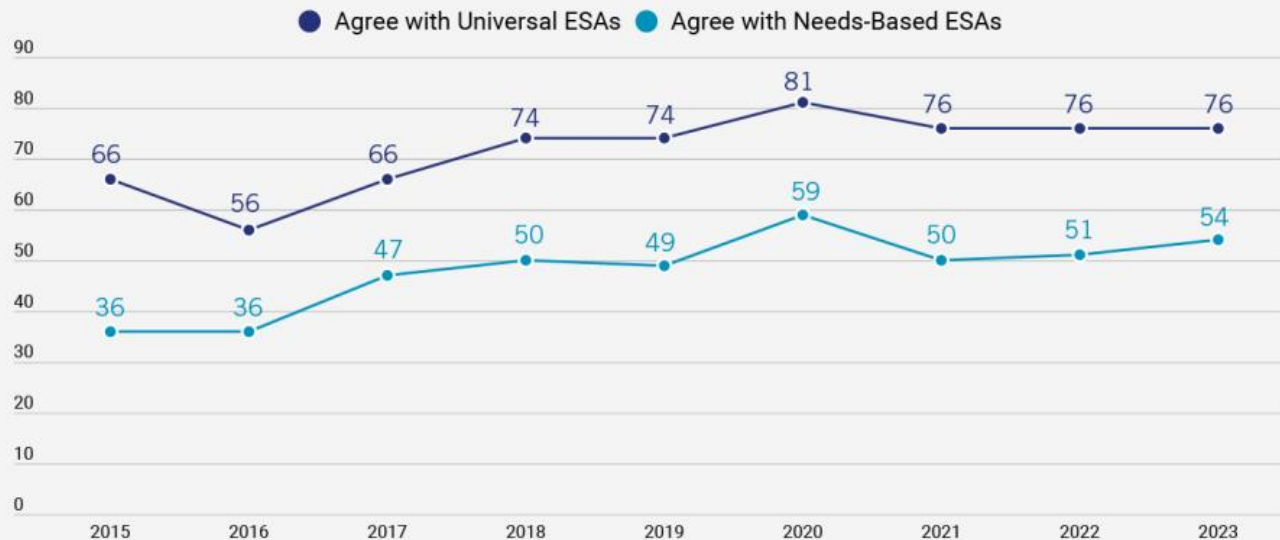
“Some people believe that ESAs should be available to all families, regardless of incomes and special needs. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?”

“Some people believe that ESAs should only be available to families based on financial need. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?”

# UNIVERSAL VS. NEEDS-BASED EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs), 2015-2023

More than three-fourths of the public support universal ESAs—a similar result to what we have observed in recent years.

*% of General Population by split sample*



*Notes:* Phone-only survey results shown for 2015–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2023. Volunteered responses not shown nor skips reflected in this chart.

*Sources:* EdChoice, *2023 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 18–May 2, 2023), Q24; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2022; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2015



## PARENTS' REASONS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Charter school and homeschool parents were most likely to name a safe environment as a top-three factor in choosing a school.

*% of Current School Parents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3 By Experience with School Type*

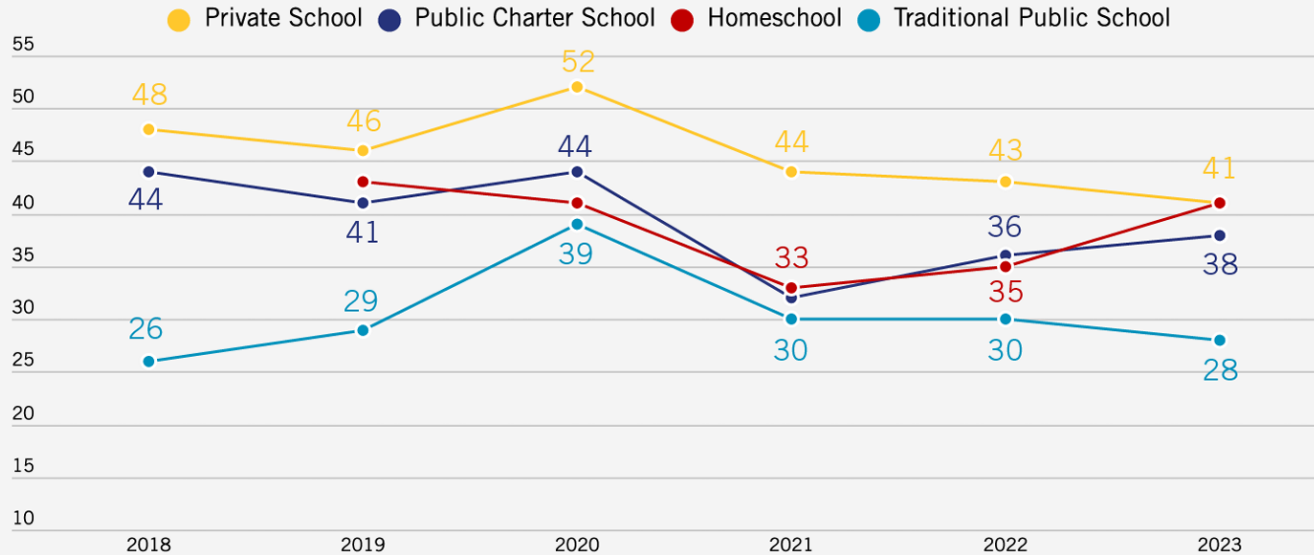
Factors	Public District School	Public Charter School	Private School	Homeschool
Location/Close to Home or Work	37%	29%	22%	23%
Socialization/Peers/Other Kids	32%	20%	16%	16%
Our Assigned District/Neighborhood School	29%	13%	13%	12%
Safe Environment	27%	35%	28%	47%
Academic Quality or Reputation	24%	33%	30%	26%
Extracurricular Activities	22%	22%	20%	15%
Diversity	18%	17%	14%	12%
Structure, Discipline	16%	19%	24%	20%
Morals/Character/Values Instruction	15%	26%	32%	26%
School Size	14%	20%	17%	11%
Individual/One-on-One Attention	14%	15%	19%	29%
Class Size	13%	16%	18%	10%
Test Scores	10%	16%	16%	13%
Religious Environment/Instruction	7%	10%	17%	14%


*Note: For more information about school type subgroup samples, see the full report at [EdChoice.org/SlAdashboard](https://EdChoice.org/SlAdashboard).  
Source: EdChoice, 2023 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 18–May 2, 2023), Q5-B*

# PARENT SATISFACTION BY SCHOOL TYPE, 2018-2023

Private school parents have been at least 10 points more likely to be "very satisfied" with their schooling experiences than public school parents each year since 2018.

*% of Current School Parents having any experience with school type, responding "very satisfied"*

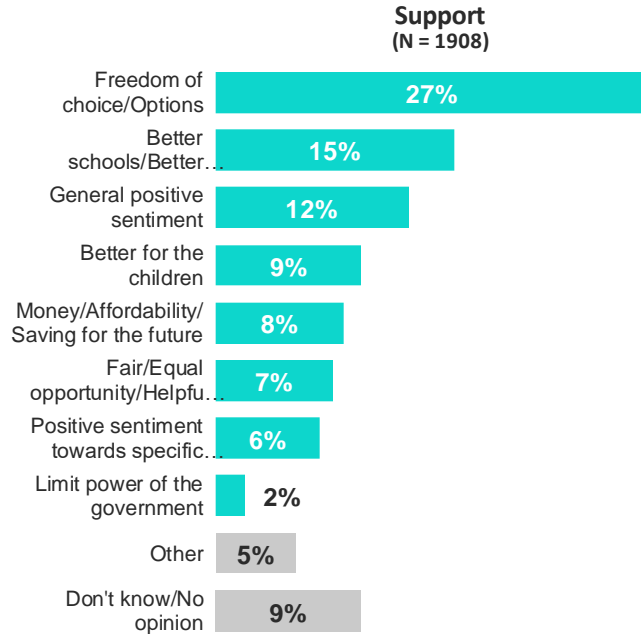


 Download data

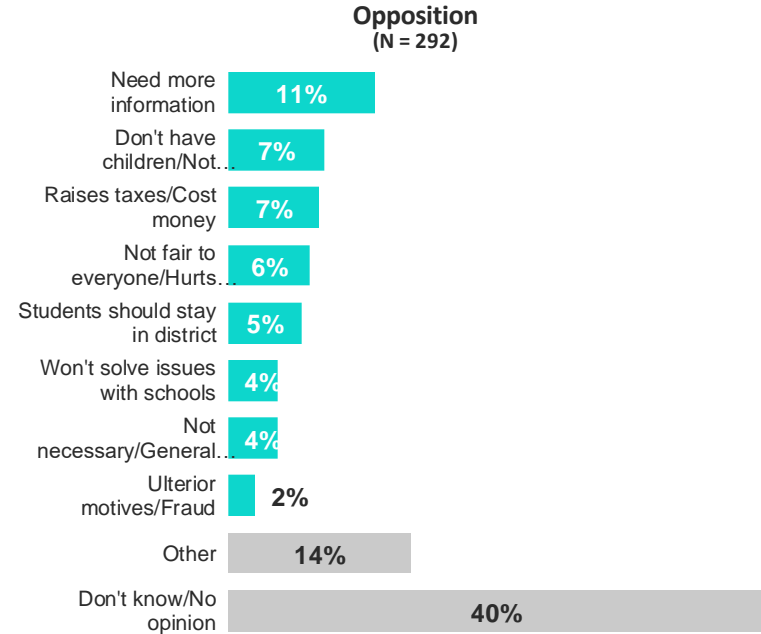
*Notes:* All percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of weighted interviews. Homeschool figure not shown for 2018 due to limited sample size. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see the full report at [EdChoice.org/SIAdashboard](https://EdChoice.org/SIAdashboard).  
*Sources:* EdChoice, *2023 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 18–May 2, 2023), Q4; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2018–2022*

# Those who support school choice policies point to the importance of choice as well as the need for access to better schools/education. Those who oppose school choice policies say they need more information, are not interested, or feel they are unfair.

- Education savings accounts (ESAs), school vouchers, public charter schools, and open enrollment are often called “school choice” policies in K-12 education. In a few words or a short phrase, why did you express support for at least one of these policies



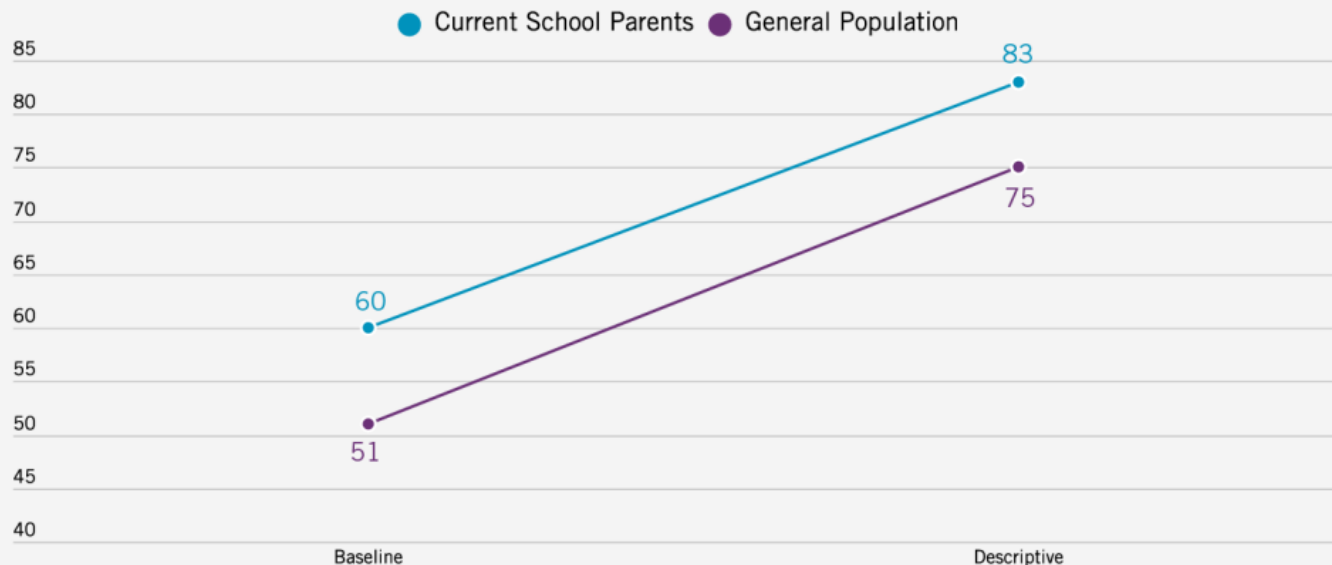
Education savings accounts (ESAs), school vouchers, public charter schools, and open enrollment are often called “school choice” policies in K-12 education. In a few words or a short phrase, why did you express opposition for all of these policies?



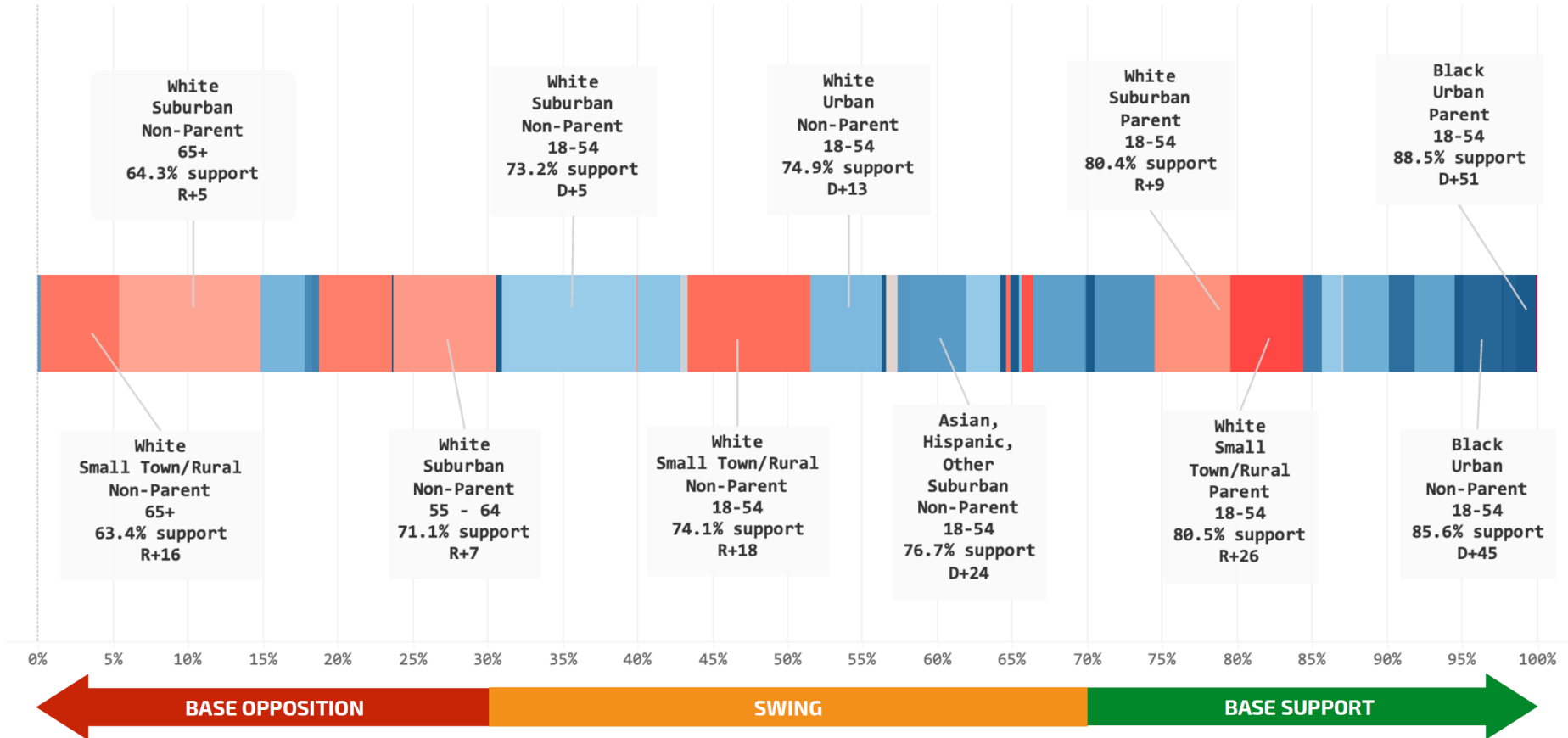
# EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESA) FAVORABILITY - WITHOUT VS. WITH DESCRIPTION, 2023

When given a description of ESAs, support increased by 23 points for both parents and the general population.

*% of Respondents replying "strongly or somewhat favor"*



# Base and Swing Audiences: School Vouchers



The following data reflect rolling 12-month results through the most recent monthly General Population survey. We advise caution on interpreting the polling results for any state or population sample size having less than 100 respondents.

## K-12 Education in Pennsylvania

Discover the latest insights and trends about K-12 education ecosystems, based on our survey research in Pennsylvania.

[Access State Brief Here](#)

**Learn more about your state's views and preferences on important K-12 education topics.**

### Pennsylvania

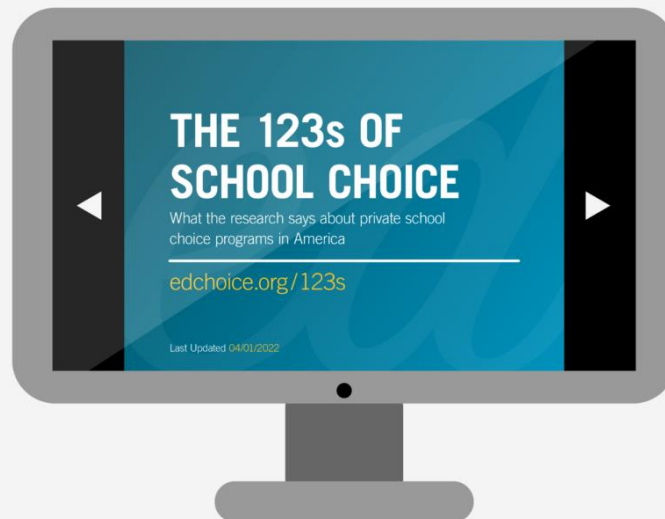
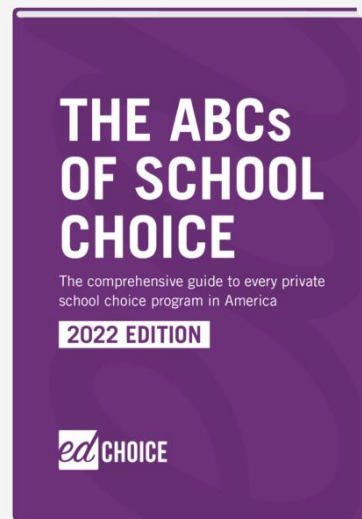
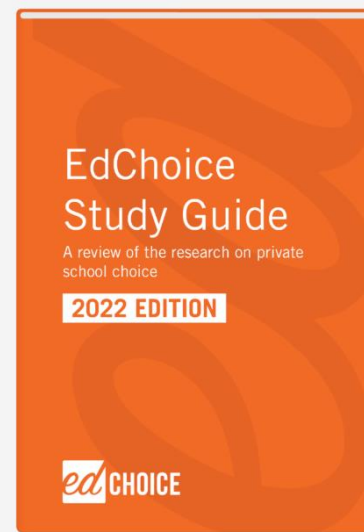
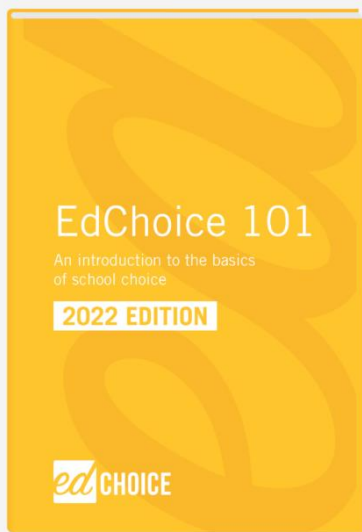
Sample Size (N) = 1,389

School Parents Sample Size (N) = 682

Pennsylvania ▾

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# What questions do you have?

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