

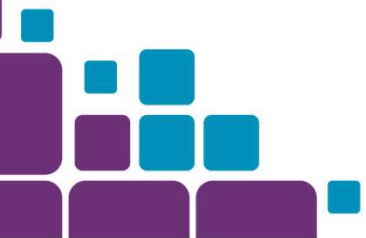
Universal Choice Redefined

What Are We Really Trying to Do Here?



The EdChoice Mission

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

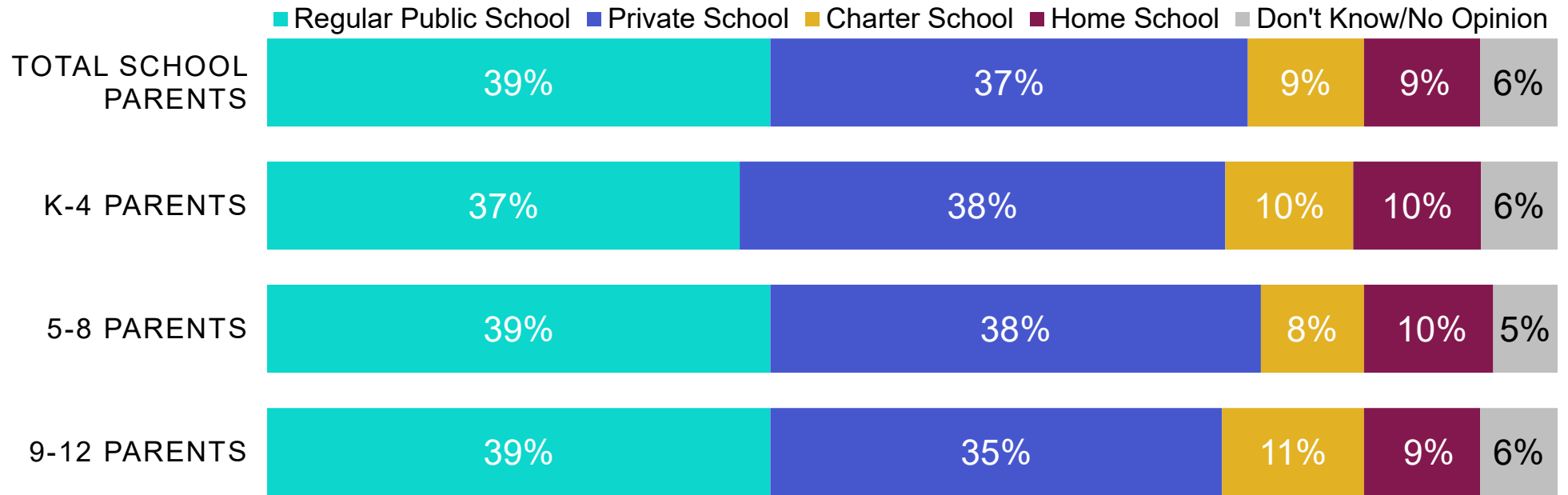


A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white cardigan, sitting and reading a book to a group of children. The children are sitting on the floor, looking towards the woman. The scene is set in a classroom or library, with a table in front of them holding a globe and other items. The image has a blue tint and a decorative graphic of purple and white squares in the top right corner.

A Revolution at the Roots

Parents have a diverse range of schooling preferences.

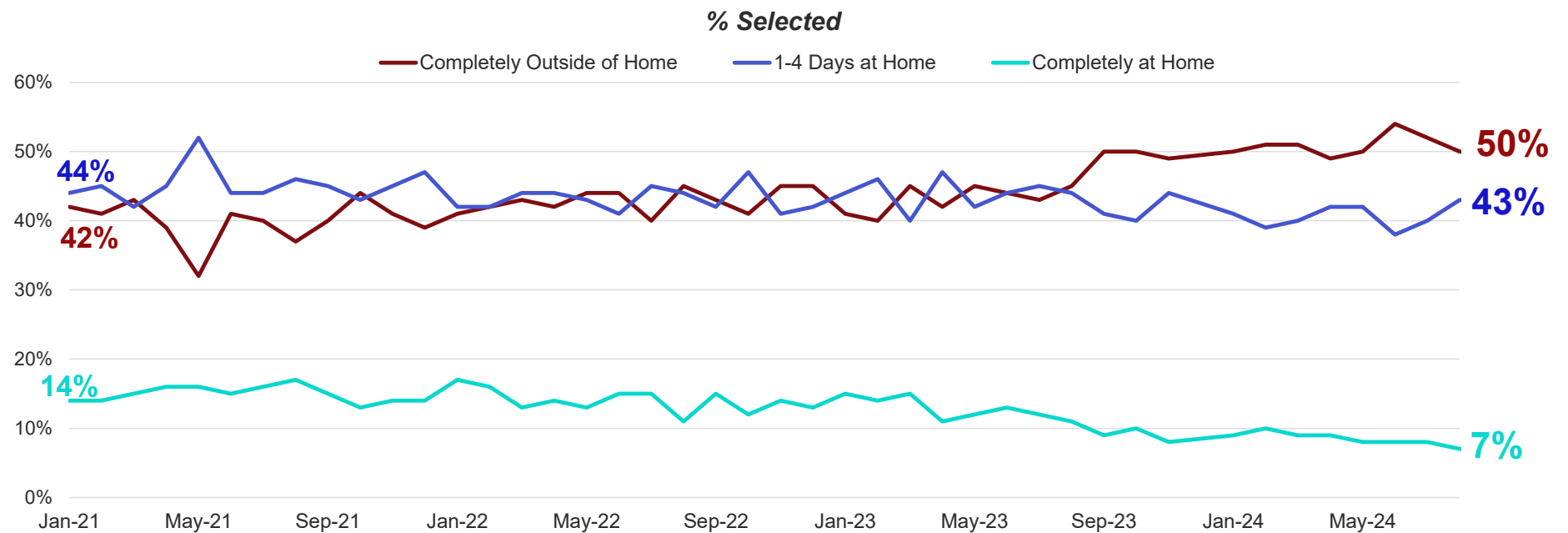
If given the option, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?



Nearly half of parents would 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?

School Parents

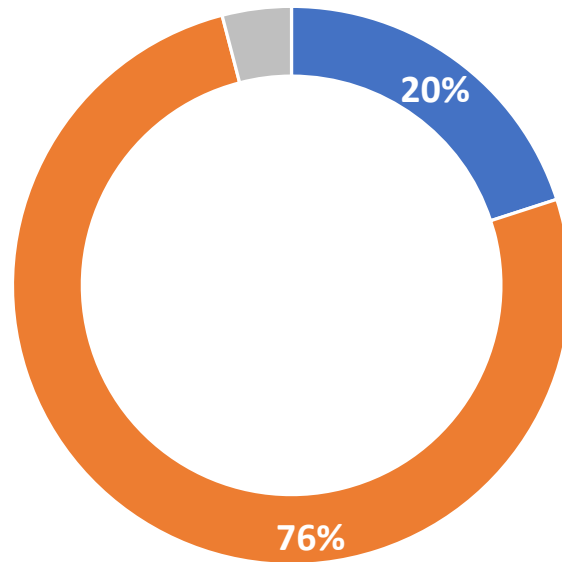


Approximately 1 in 5 parents indicate that their child has switched from one school type to another.

Besides moving from grade school to middle school or middle school to high school, has your youngest/oldest child ever switched from one type of school (or school sector) to another? The various types/sectors include public district schools, public charter schools, private schools, full-time virtual schools, and home schooling.

School Parents

- Yes, my child has changed school types
- No, my child has not changed school types
- I don't know if my child has changed school types



Top % Yes

Private School	30%
Special Needs	25%
Black	24%

Bottom % Yes

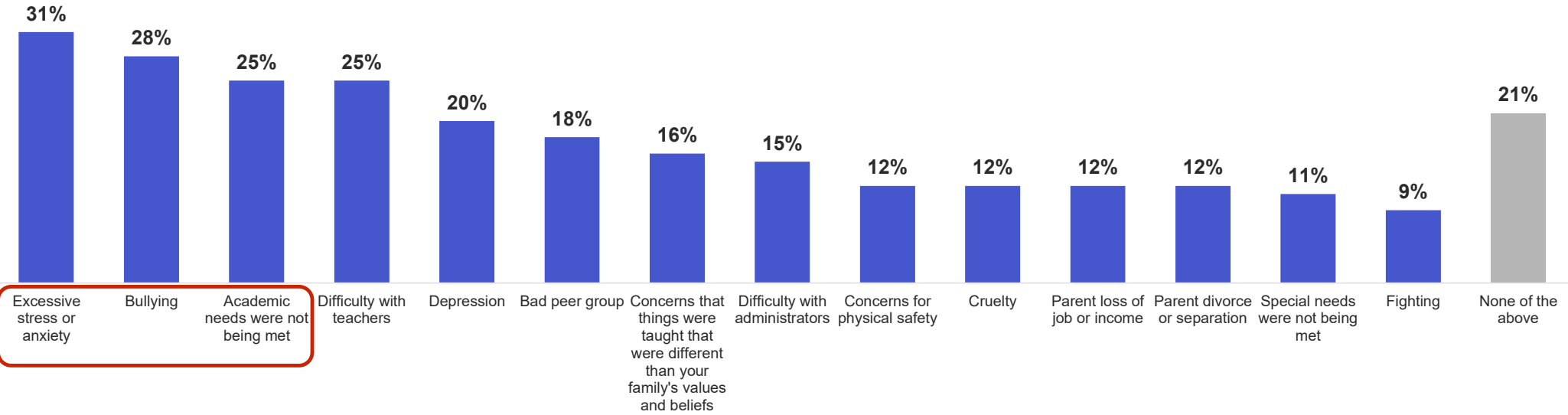
Liberal	17%
Northeast	17%
Midwest	17%

Parents are most likely to switch schools due to bullying, stress/anxiety and academic needs not being met at their former school.

Children may encounter different circumstances both inside and outside of school that make it hard for them to achieve academic and personal success. Has your youngest/oldest child experienced any of these difficulties at her/his **former school**? Please select all that apply.

School Parents

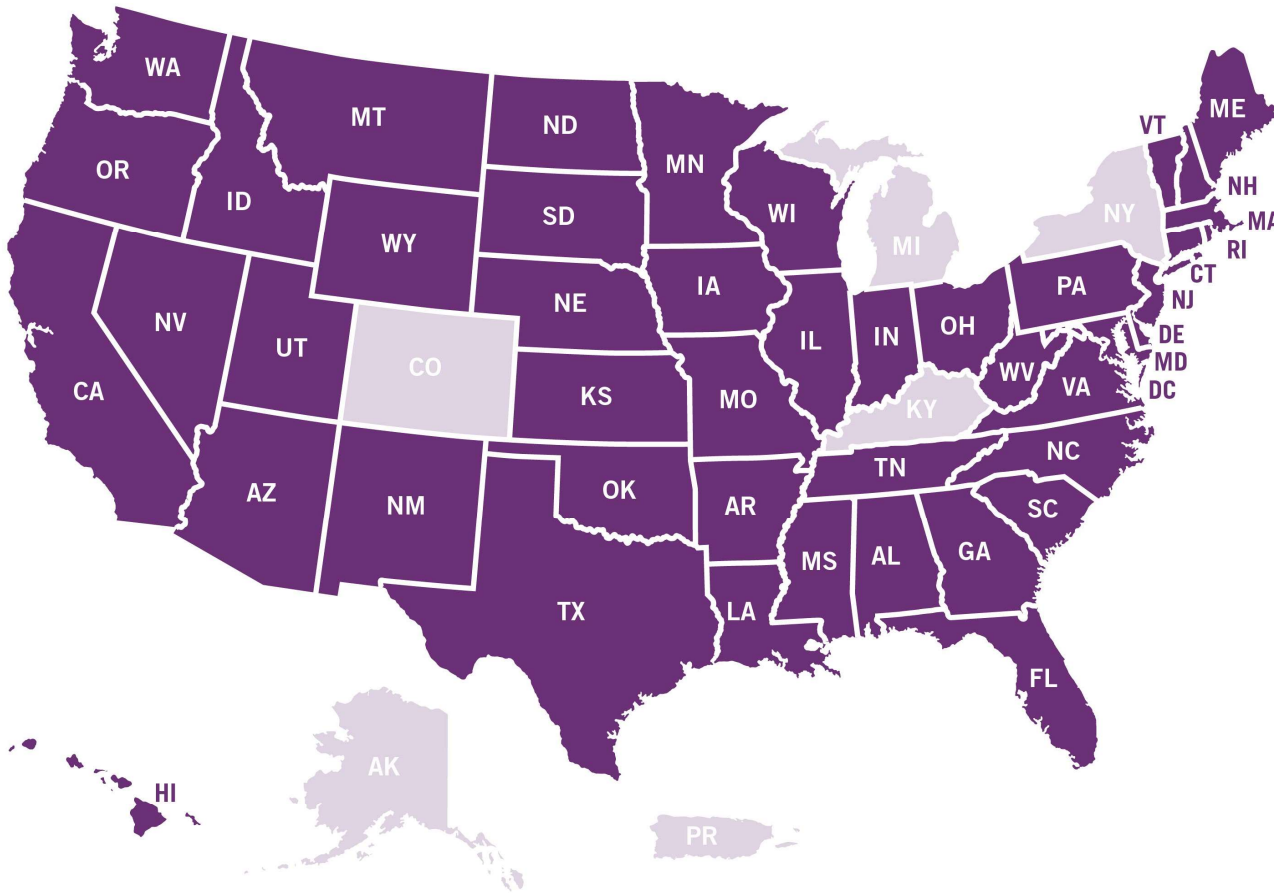
% Selected



Note: Results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.
 * Only respondents who indicated that their children have switched schools were asked about their child's former school.

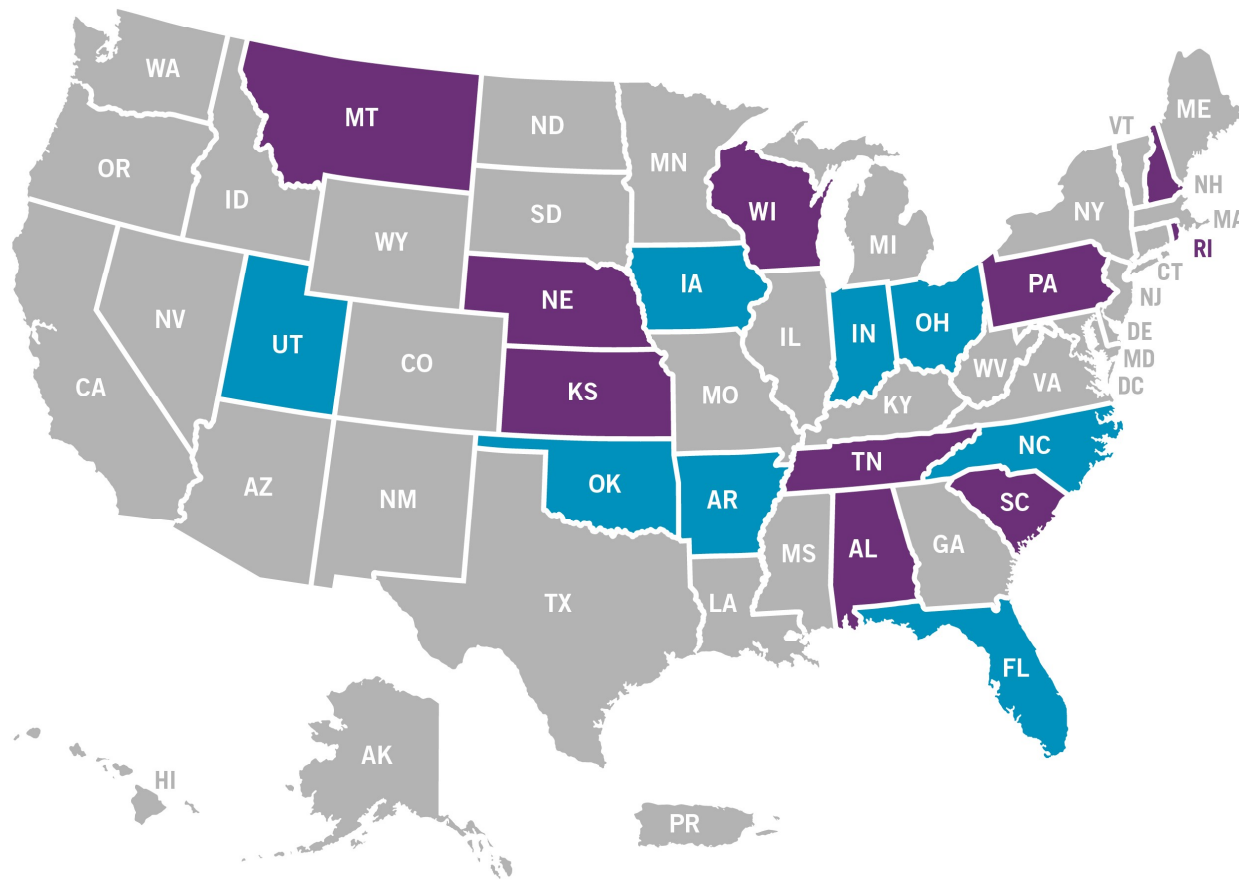


Revolution Drives Policy Change



2023 - A Momentous Year for Choice Legislation

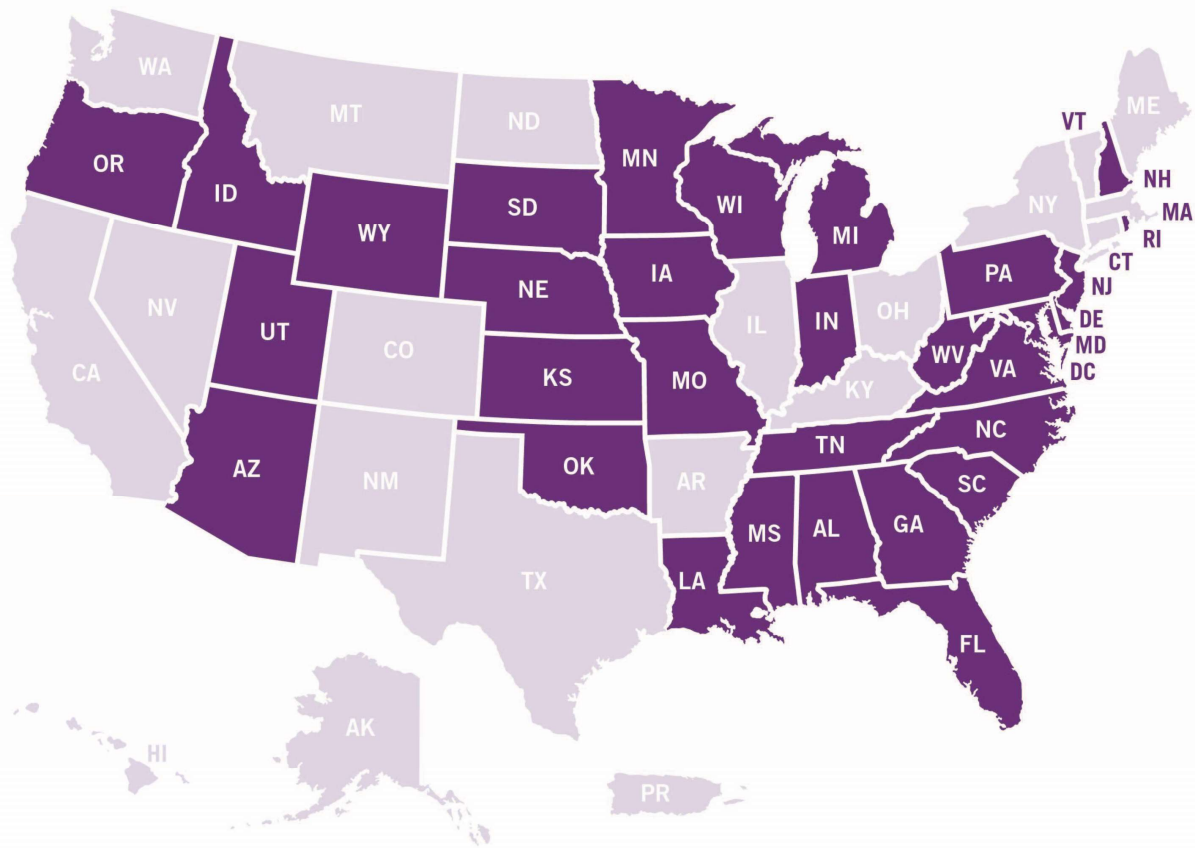
- 125 private school choice bills were introduced in 43 states.
- 79% of those bills were related to ESAs.
- Nearly 1 in 5 students live in a state with universal choice.
- Approximately 22 million students – or 40% – nationwide are eligible for a choice program.



2023

Legislative Victories

- 18 states enacted new OR expanded choice programs
- 8 with universal or near universal eligibility



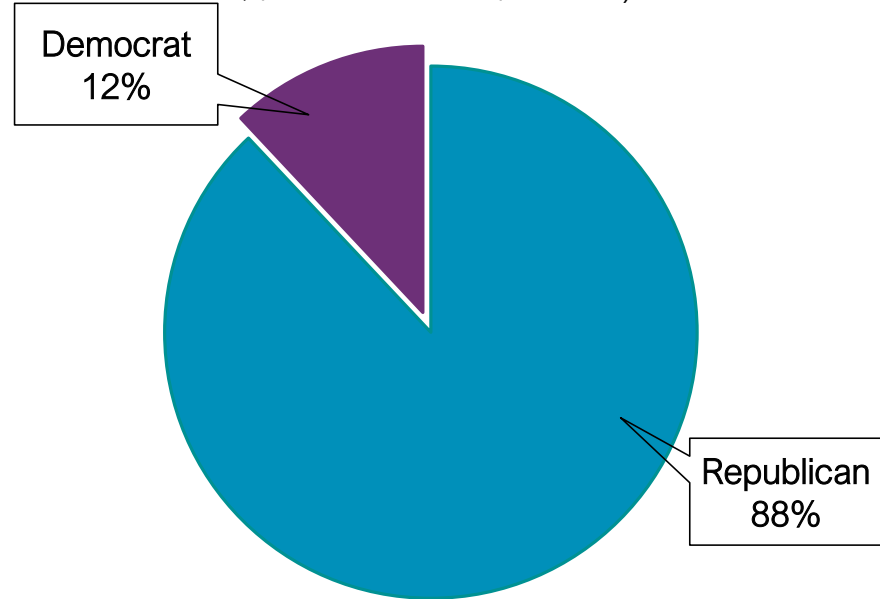
2024 - The Beat Goes On

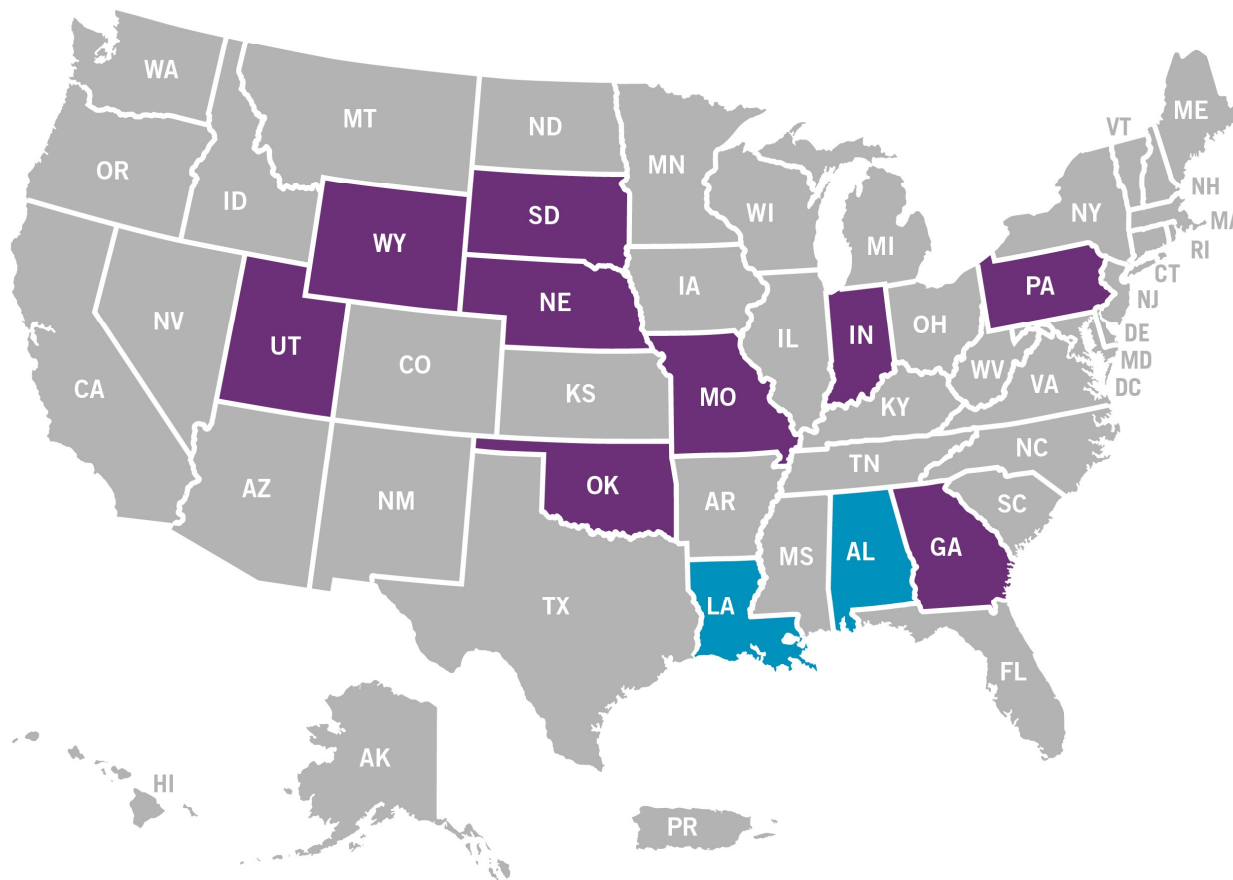
- This year, EdChoice tracked 85 educational choice bills in 30 states
- 73% of tracked legislation were ESA proposals

Choice is Trending Towards Bipartisan

In Louisiana, SIX Democrats voted for universal choice, as did Democrats in Missouri and Nebraska.

Bill Sponsorship by Political Party
(sponsored and cosponsored)





2024

Legislative Victories

- 11 states enacted new OR expanded choice programs
- 2 with universal or near universal eligibility



What are the characteristics of a free market in K-12 Education?

Wordcloud Poll 64 responses 40 participants



A young girl with curly hair, wearing a red sweater over a light blue collared shirt, is sitting at a desk. A man with short dark hair, wearing a blue sweater, is leaning over her, smiling and holding a pen. They appear to be working together on a project or assignment. The background is slightly blurred, showing a potted plant and a desk lamp. The entire image has a purple tint.

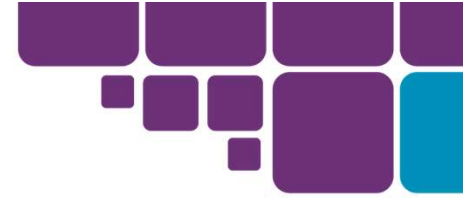
What is **UNIVERSAL CHOICE?**





WDMS?
What Did
MILTON FRIEDMAN
Say?

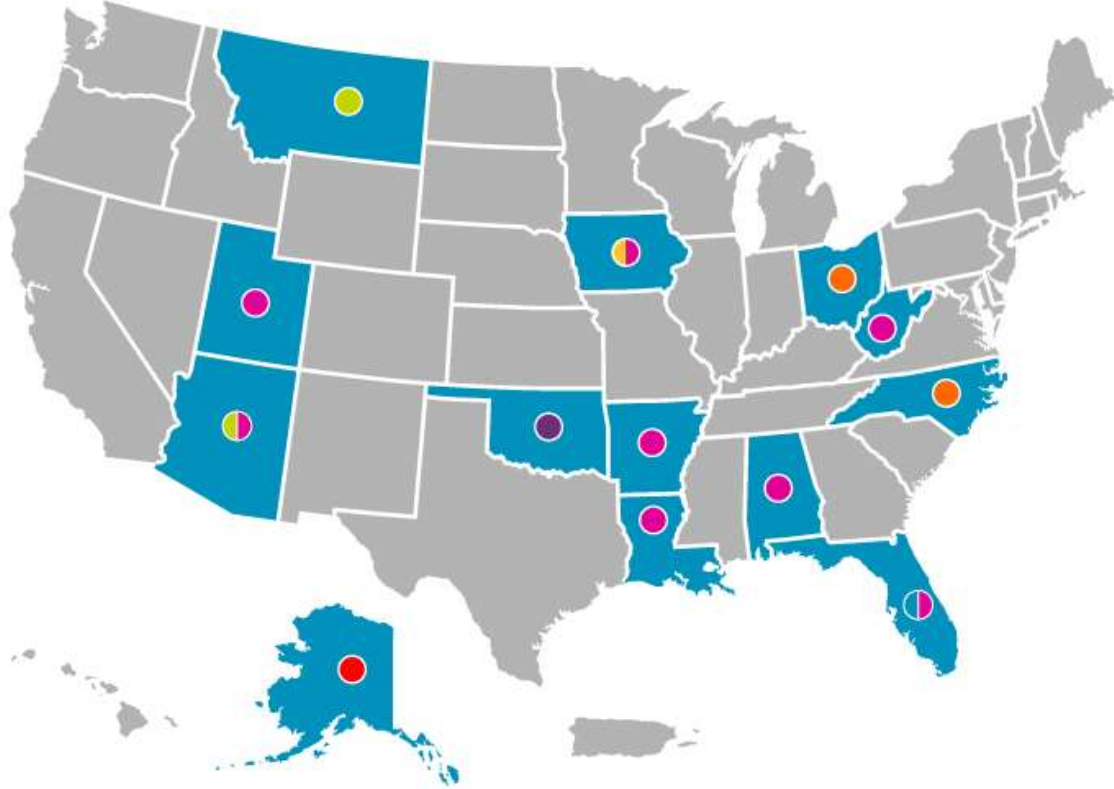
About Universal Eligibility



“Our goal is to have a system in which **every family** in the U.S. will be able to choose for itself the school to which its children go.”



13 states with universal eligibility



Education Savings Account Refundable Tax Credit School Voucher Individual Tax Credits & Deduction Tax-Credit Education Savings Account Correspondence School Allotment Program Tax-Credit Scholarship

About Universal Options (Usage)

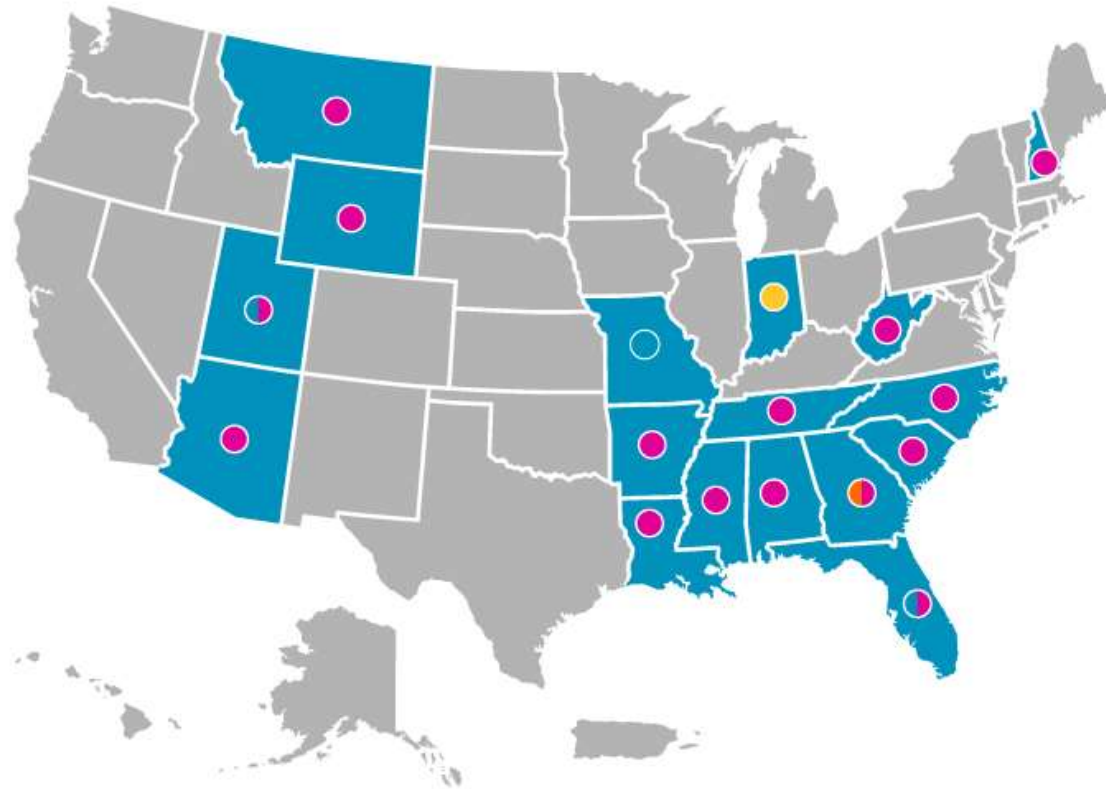


“But why require parents to spend the voucher in a single school? Why not offer **divisible vouchers**? Let part be spent for the core school and the rest for mathematics lessons, music lessons or vocational training purchased from another source. One does not buy all one’s groceries at a single store.

Why should one buy all of a child’s schooling at a single school?



17 states with universal options (usage)



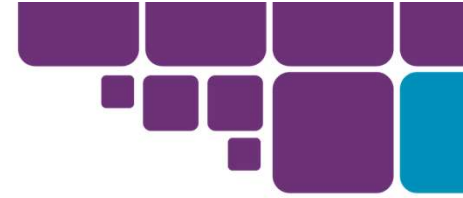
Education Savings Account
Refundable Tax Credit

School Voucher
Individual Tax Credits & Deduction

Tax-Credit Education Savings Account
Correspondence School Allotment Program

Tax-Credit Scholarship

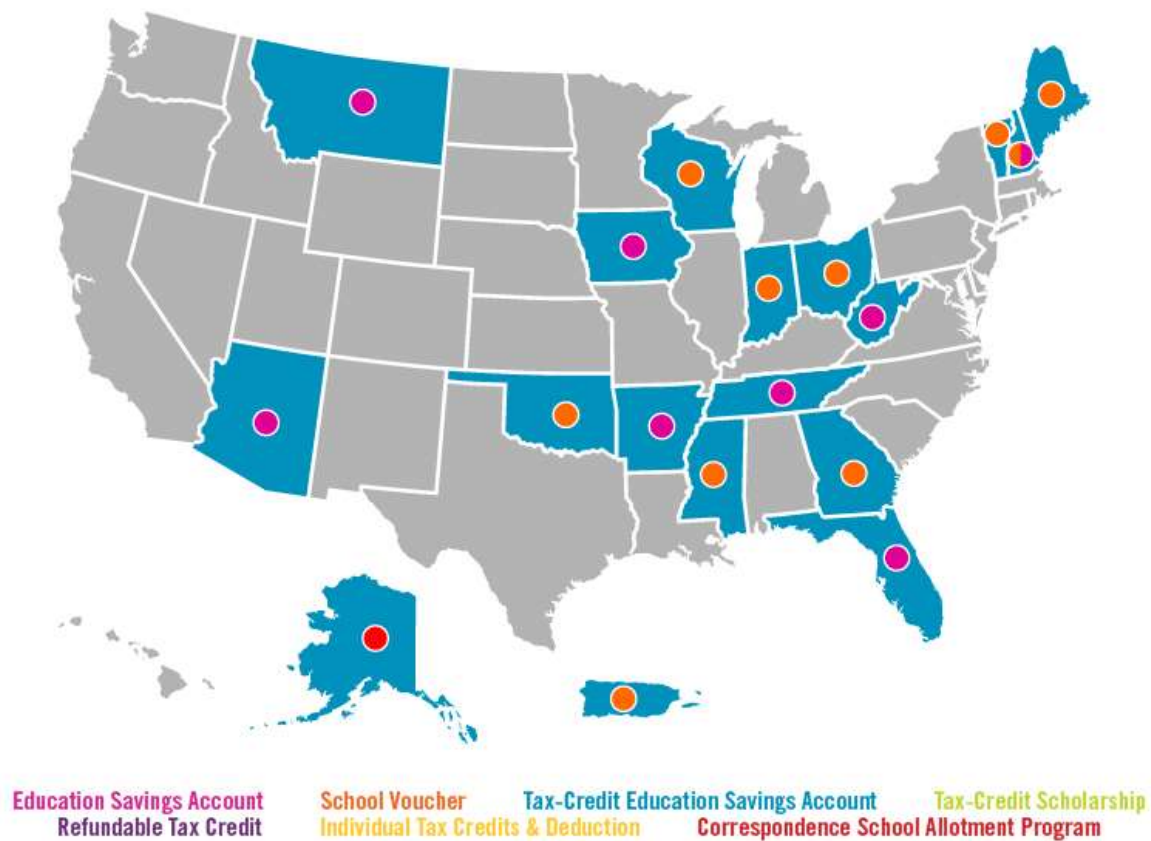
About Universal Funding



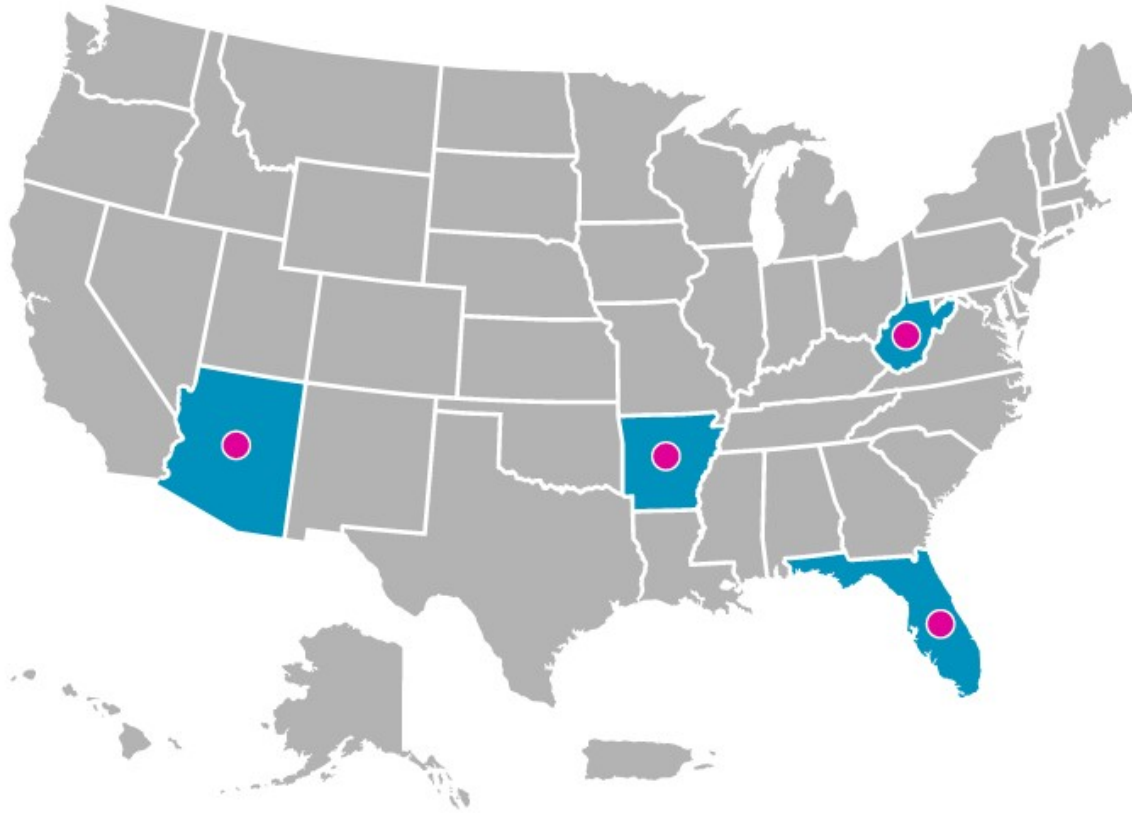
A far more effective and equitable way for government to finance education is to **finance students, not schools.**



18 states with universal or near universal funding



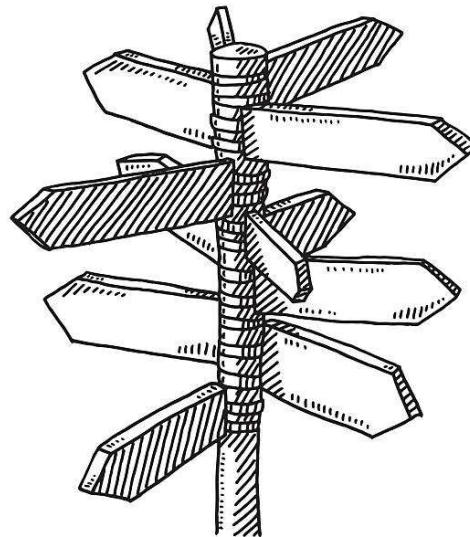
4 states meet all criteria – universal eligibility, options & funding



All families should have access to unencumbered, **universal** educational choice.



All Kids



All Options
(Usage)

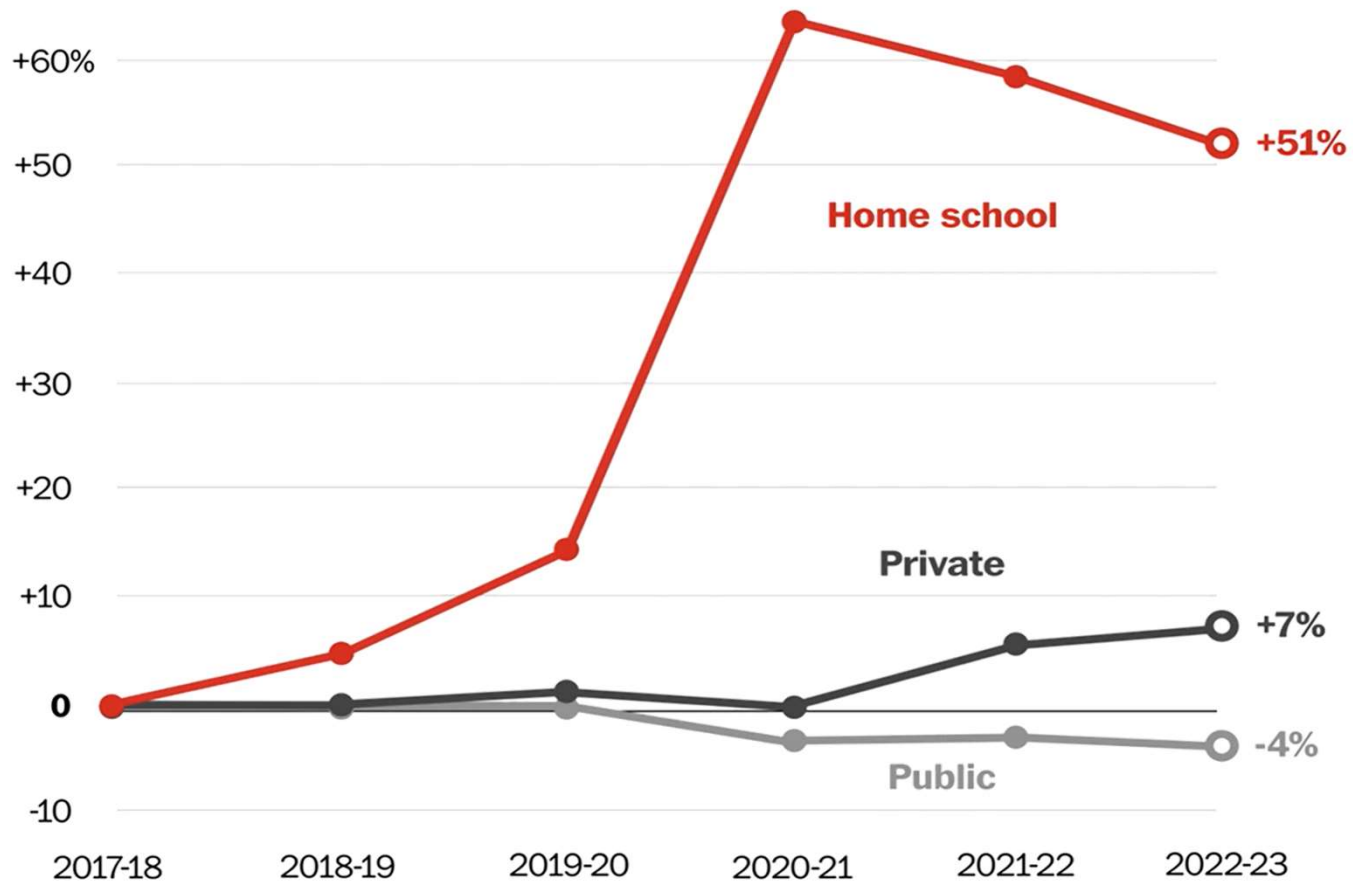


All Funding

A photograph of students in a classroom, with a purple overlay and a decorative graphic in the top right corner. The text "What Challenges Lie Before Us?" is centered in white.

What Challenges Lie Before Us?

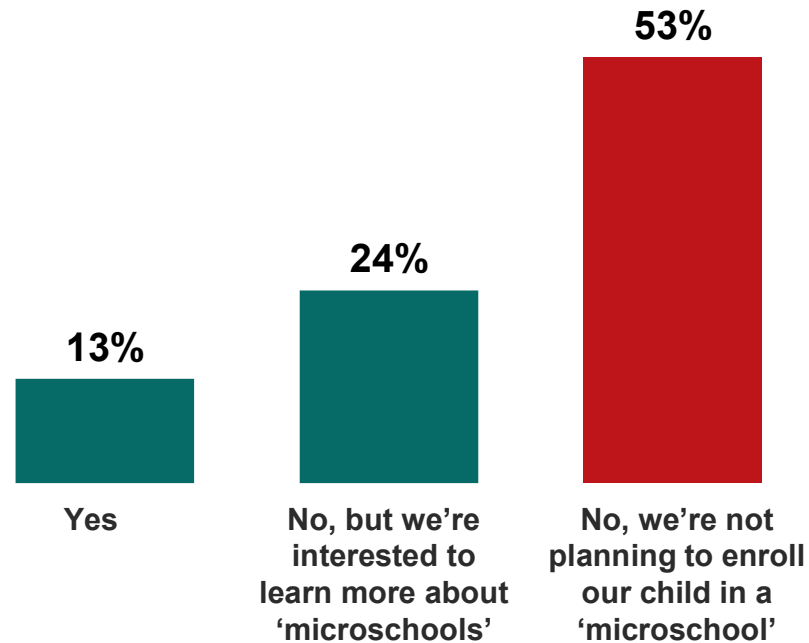
Homeschooling Rates are Rising



Microschooling is on the Rise

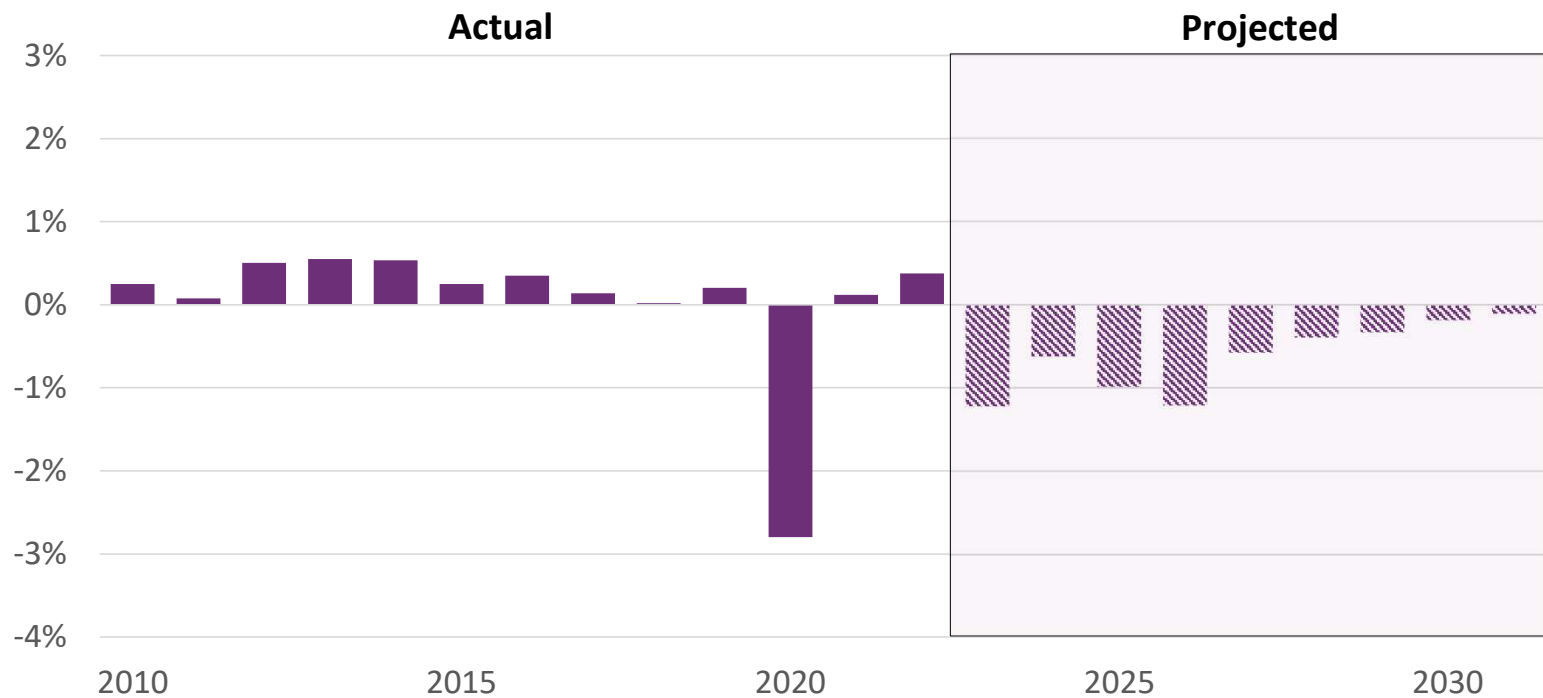
At least one-third of parents report having a child attending a microschool or are interested in learning more about microschools.

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'?

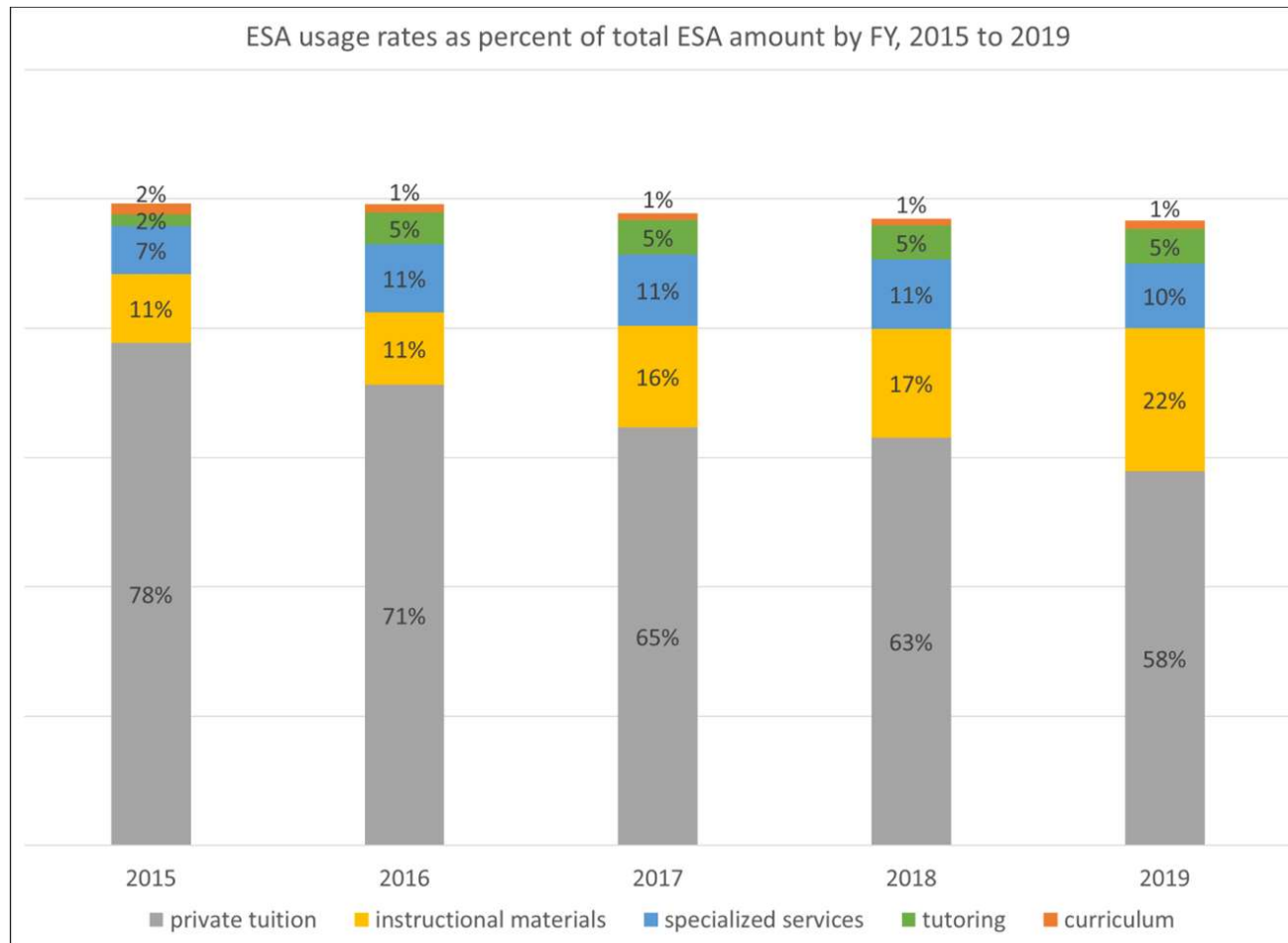


Public School Enrollment is Projected to Decrease

Annual percentage change in public elementary and secondary schools: Fall 2010 to Fall 2031



ESA funds are Being Used with Greater Diversity



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 edconomicslab.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										
CT										
DE		2					13			
DC		2				9				
FL										
GA										
HI		2		6				16		
IA		3								
ID		3								
IL						11	13			25
IN							13			25
KS										
KY	1									
LA							13			26
MA										
MD	1					10	13	17		
ME	1					11	13			
MI										
MN	1						13			25
MO										
MS				7		11	13			24
MT	1		4				13			24
NC							13			25
ND							13			26
NE										
NH						12	13			26
NJ							13			26
NM							13			
NV							13	18	21	26
NY										
OH										
OK							13			33
OR			5			11	13	19	22	27
PA	1									
RI							13			26
SC				8	8		13			
SD							15			25
TN										
TX							13	20		28
UT	1									
VA										
VT										
WA				8	8					29
WI				8	8					
WV	1						13			30
WY	1			8	8		13	19	23	31

We are ALL going broke!

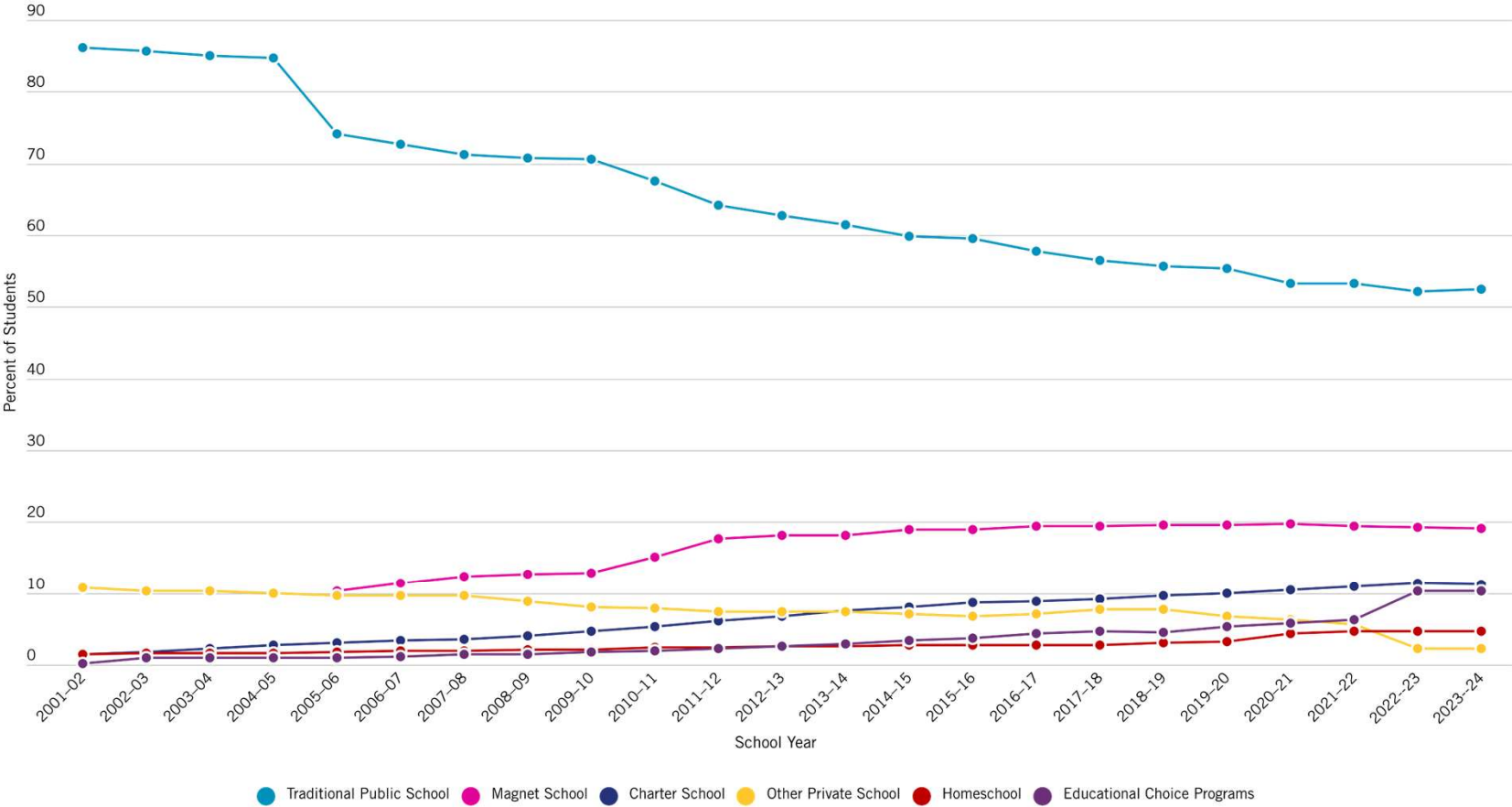




What is Happening in Choice-Rich States?

EdChoice Share: Florida

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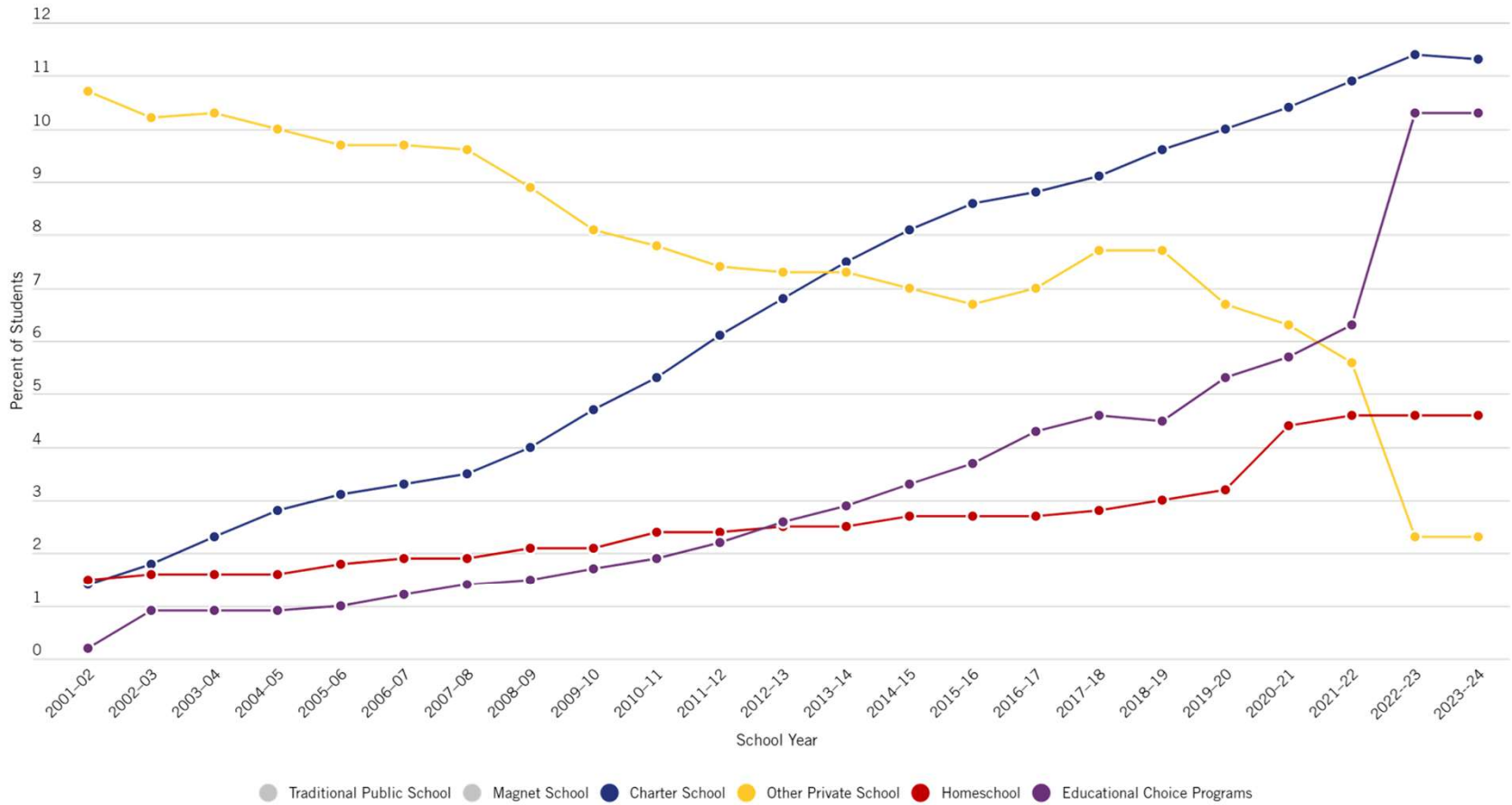


Download data
 Sources: NCES, EdChoice, Step Up For Students and Angela Watson (Johns Hopkins University)



EdChoice Share: Florida

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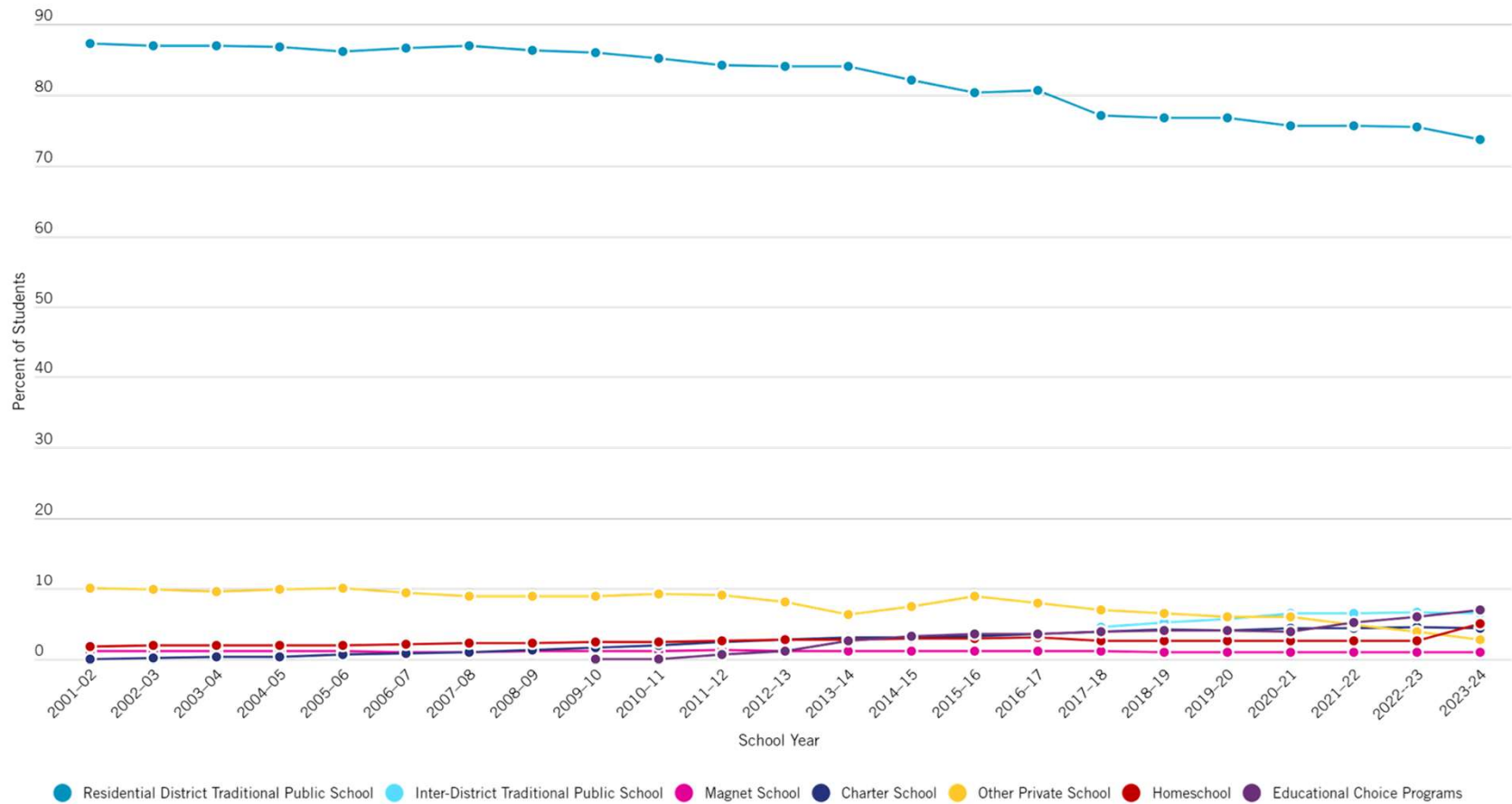
[Download data](#)

Sources: NCES, EdChoice, Step Up For Students and Angela Watson (Johns Hopkins University)



EdChoice Share: Indiana

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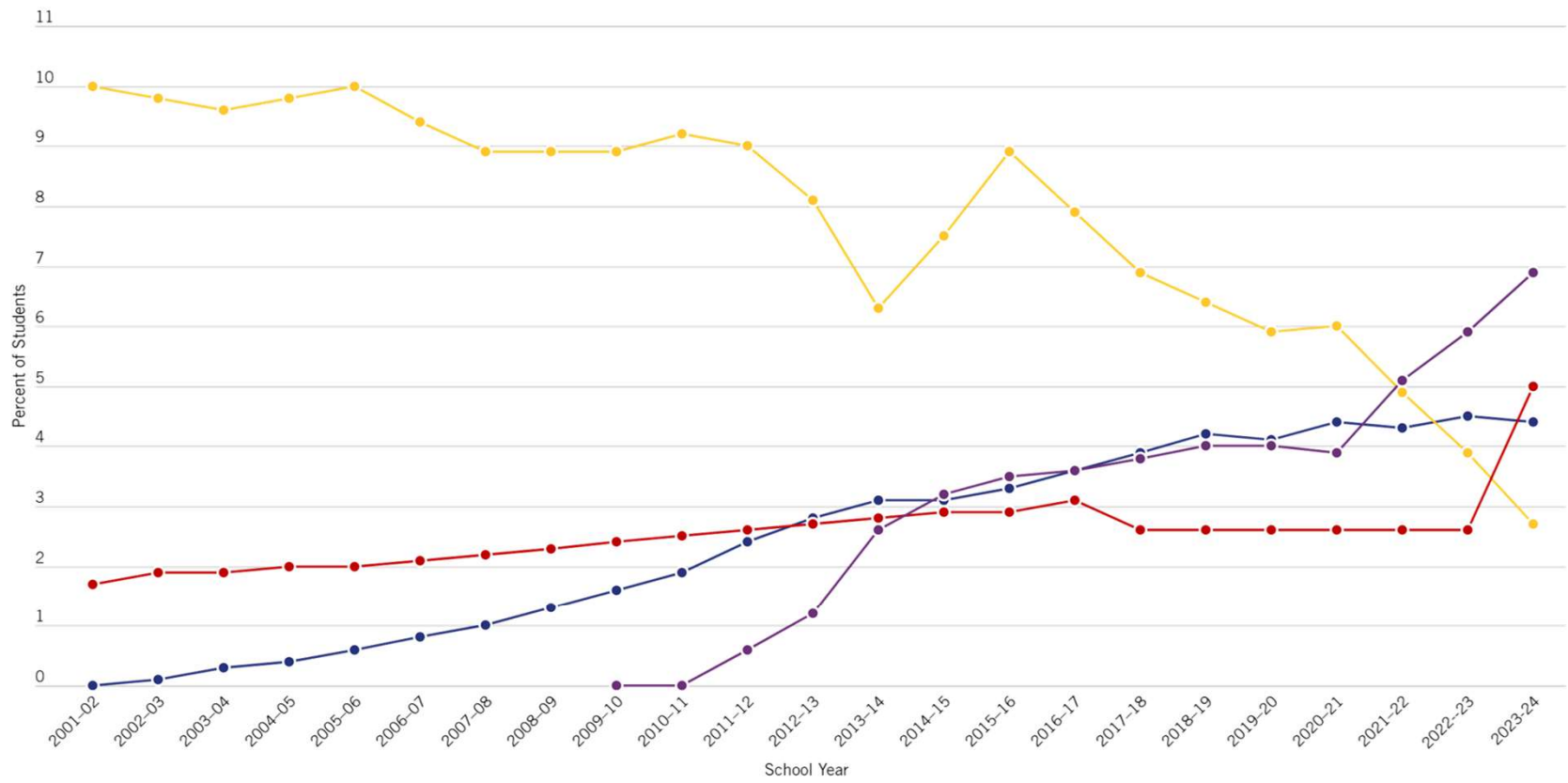
[Download data](#)

Sources: NCES, EdChoice, Indiana Department of Education, and Angela Watson (Johns Hopkins University)



EdChoice Share: Indiana

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● Residential District Traditional Public School ● Inter-District Traditional Public School ● Magnet School ● Charter School ● Other Private School ● Homeschool ● Educational Choice Programs

[Download data](#)

Sources: NCES, EdChoice, Indiana Department of Education, and Angela Watson (Johns Hopkins University)



Key Takeaways



- We need to return to the North Star of Milton and Rose D. Friedman.
- We are still working towards the free market ideal.
- Radically reforming education requires a marketplace that involves all kids, all options (usage), and all money.

ONE MILLION

lives being made better each
day by school choice.

