

Vouchers and ESAs

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The Indiana School Boards Association is releasing the following fact sheet on private school choice, as the Indiana Senate prepares to debate legislation that would expand the Choice Scholarship voucher program and establish education scholarship accounts (ESAs).

- Resolutions opposing the expansion of vouchers and ESAs [have been adopted](#) by 180 Indiana school boards that collectively serve 670,000 students.
- Indiana ranks [fifth](#) among states in state budget support for private school choice.
- Indiana ranks [39th](#) among states in public K-12 expenditures per pupil.
- More than one-third of Indiana counties (33) have [zero Choice Scholarship schools](#).
- Twenty (20) Indiana counties have only one Choice Scholarship school.
- Just [8.7% of last year's voucher recipients](#) resided in rural Indiana.
- A 2018 study by researchers at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Kentucky examining the first four years of the Choice Scholarship voucher program found students who used a voucher to transfer to a private school [experienced achievement loss in math](#) and no improvement in English compared to their peers who remained in public schools.
- Indiana has expended [more than \\$1 billion on Choice Scholarships](#) since the program's inception.
- The Legislative Services Agency's analysis of [House Bill 1005](#) estimates that [187,000 Hoosier students](#) would be eligible to open an ESA.
- HB 1005 expands voucher eligibility by raising the income threshold to three times the amount to qualify for free and reduced price lunch.
- Households of four earning up to \$145,410 and households of five earning up to \$170,274 could qualify for a Choice Scholarship voucher. These are [upper-class incomes](#) in many Hoosier communities.
- The annual income thresholds as proposed are more than twice as high as Indiana's [median household income](#) of \$57,603.
- The House-passed budget spends an additional [\\$144M over the next two years](#) to fund the expansion of the Choice Scholarship voucher program and the education scholarship account program. The money comes out of the tuition support appropriation at the expense of resources available for traditional public education.
- The House-passed budget estimates that enrollment in the voucher program will grow by 34% from 36,100 students this year to 48,452 in FY 2023.

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