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# Empowering Parents through Choice

## Stories from the States





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# Overview

1. What do we mean by choice?
2. What do we mean by parental empowerment?
3. Existing state programs
4. 2011-12 state actions



# What do we mean by choice?

Choice Policy	Funding Source	School Type
<b>Charter Schools</b>	Per-pupil state and local funding	Public schools operating under a charter contract
<b>School Vouchers/Opportunity Scholarships</b>	Direct state funding	Primarily private schools
<b>Tax Credit Scholarships</b>	Privately funded through state tax incentives	Primarily private schools
<b>Individual tax credit/deduction</b>	State tax incentives	Public and private education-related expenses



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# What do we mean by parental empowerment?

- Expanding the role parents play in education
  - PTA and PTOs
  - School choices
  - School Accountability Councils
  - Parent triggers



## Existing charter school programs - 41 states and D.C.

### 2011-12 school year

- 5.8% of all public schools (5,611 charter schools nationwide)
- 4.2% of all public school students (2,056,996 charter school students )
- 5 states account for 51% of all charter school students (AZ, CA, FL, OH, TX)
  - 10 states account for 72% of all charter school students

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools: <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/home>



## Existing Voucher Programs - 11 states and D.C

State	Low-Income Voucher	Special Needs Voucher	Rural
Washington, D.C.	x		
Florida		x	
Georgia		x	
Indiana			
Louisiana	x	x	
Maine			x
Mississippi		x	
Ohio	x	x	
Oklahoma		x	
Utah		x	
Vermont			x
Wisconsin	x		

Source: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice: <http://www.edchoice.org/School-Choice/School-Choice-Programs.aspx>



## Existing Tax Credit Scholarship Programs - 11 states

State	Corporate Tax Credit	Individual Tax Credit
Arizona	X	X
Florida	X	
Georgia	X	X
Indiana	X	X
Iowa		X
Louisiana		X
New Hampshire	X	
Oklahoma		X
Pennsylvania	X	X
Rhode Island		X
Virginia		X

Source: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice: <http://www.edchoice.org/School-Choice/School-Choice-Programs.aspx>



## Existing Individual tax credit/deduction programs - 6 states

State	Tax Credit	Tax Deduction
Illinois	x	
Indiana		x
Iowa	x	
Louisiana		x
Minnesota	x	x
North Carolina	x	

Source: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice: <http://www.edchoice.org/School-Choice/School-Choice-Programs.aspx>





## Existing Parent Trigger Laws- 7 states

States	Year Enacted	Parent Signatures Required
California	2010	50% - attending/matriculating
Connecticut	2010	No petition allowed*
Indiana	2011	51% attending
Louisiana	2012	Majority attending
Mississippi	2010	Majority attending
Ohio	2011	50% attending/matriculating
Texas	2011	Majority attending

\* Parents hold majority of seats on the School Governance Council of low-performing schools tasked with selecting and implementing reforms



## Legislative Activity 2011-12

### Charter Schools

- 46 states introduced legislation, 35 states passed legislation (Maine created a new program)

### Tax Credit Scholarships

- 31 states introduced legislation, 7 states passed legislation (4 states created new programs)

### Private School Vouchers

- 31 states introduced legislation, 6 states passed legislation (Indiana created a new program)

### Parent Triggers

- 20 states introduced legislation, 4 states passed legislation



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