



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

School Voucher Laws: State-by-State Comparison (January 2014)

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Arizona					
Program: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (2011) Statute: A.R.S. 15-2401 – 15-2404 Jurisdiction: Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with certain disabilities - Students attending public schools or districts assigned a D or F under the school grading system - Child of an active duty service member - Students living in foster care 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private schools are not required to administer state assessments to voucher recipients 	No cap	90% of what the district would have received in state funding for each participating student
Florida					
Program: John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program (2001) Statute: Fla. Stat. § 1002.39 Jurisdiction: Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with certain disabilities - Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must annually provide parents with a written statement of each student's progress - Private schools are not required to administer state assessments but parents can ask that their student take state exams and the private school must cooperate 	No cap	- Equal to what a public school would receive for each participating student

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Georgia					
Program: Special Needs Scholarship Program (2007) Statute: O.C.G.A. TITLE 20 Chapter 2 Article 33 Jurisdiction: Statewide	- Students with certain disabilities - Students must also have an IEP plan in effect	Yes	- Must have been open for at least one year or otherwise must get approval from the state on its financial stability - Must report student assessment data to the state and to a student's parents	No cap	Equal to what a public school would receive for each participating student, not counting federal funds

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Indiana					
<p>Program: Indiana Choice Scholarship Program (2011)</p> <p>Statute: IC 20-51-4</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with household incomes up to 150% of the free and reduced price lunch guideline (FRPL) - Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and a household income not exceeding 200% FRPL - Students whose neighborhood public school is assigned an 'F' by the state accountability system and have a household income not exceeding 150% FRPL - Students who previously received either a voucher or tax credit scholarship with household income not exceeding 200% FRPL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, student must have attended public school previous two semesters - This requirement is waived for students whose neighborhood school receives an 'F' grade by the state - This requirement is waived if a student received a tax credit scholarship the previous school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be accredited by the state or a regional accrediting agency - Schools must administer state assessments to scholarship recipients - Schools will be included in the state school grading system - Schools must implement annual teacher performance evaluation plans 	15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90% of the state per-pupil funding for students that qualify for FRPL - 50% of the state per-pupil funding for students with household incomes up to 150% FRPL, or in the case where income is allowed to reach 200% FRPL - \$4,500 for students in grades 1-8

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Louisiana					
<p>Program: - Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (2008) - School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (2010)</p> <p>Statute: - RS 17:4011 - 17:4025 - RS 17:4031</p> <p>Jurisdiction: - Income-based voucher: Statewide - Special needs voucher: only eligible in certain parishes</p>	<p>- Students with household incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty guideline and who attended a public school that received a school grade of C or lower under the school grading system</p> <p>- Students entering kindergarten who meets the income requirement</p> <p>- Students in grades K-8 with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) that have been diagnosed with certain disabilities and live in an eligible parish</p>	<p>- Income-based voucher: Yes</p> <p>- Special needs voucher: No</p>	<p>- Schools must administer state assessments to voucher recipients</p> <p>- Schools with at least 40 voucher students in grades 3-8, or in high school, receive a performance score based on the test results of voucher students called the Scholarship Cohort Index (SCI)</p> <p>- Schools that receive an SCI score less than 50 cannot enroll new voucher students the following year</p>	No cap	<p>- Income-based voucher: Equal to the state per-pupil allocation</p> <p>- Special needs voucher: Up to 50% of the state per-pupil allocation</p>
Maine					
<p>Program: Town Tuitioning Program (1873)</p> <p>Statute: M.R.S. 20-A § 2951 to 2955</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	Students residing in a district that does not operate any public schools, or does not contract with school's of another district	No	<p>- If at least 60% of a private school's student attendance is publicly funded, the school must participate in the state assessments</p> <p>- Must be non-religious</p>	None	Equal to the statewide average per-pupil allocation

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Mississippi					
<p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dvslexia Program (2012) - Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-Language Impairments (2013) <p>Statute:</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. Title 37, Chapter 173</p> <p>2012 HB 1031</p> <p>2013 HB 896</p> <p>Jurisdiction:</p> <p>Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students in grades 1-6 who have been diagnosed with dyslexia - Students in grades 1-6 who meet the IDEA definition of havng a speech-language impairment 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating private schools must receive accreditation from the state in the practice of dyslexia therapy or speech-language therapy - The therapy must be delivered by a licensed dyslexia therapist or a certified speech-language pathologist - Must provide parents of scholarship recipients an annual report of the student's progress 	No cap	Equal to the state's base per-pupil allocation plus any state and federal categorical funding that participants would otherwise qualify for

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
North Carolina					
<p>Program: - Opportunity Scholarship Program (2013) - Special Education Scholarship Grants for Children With Disabilities (2013)</p> <p>Statute N.C.G.S. "§ 115C-562</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with household incomes not exceeding 133% of the free and reduced price lunch guideline (FRPL) - Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who are not already placed in a private school at the district's expense 	<p>Yes, unless the student is a foster child</p>	<p>Opportunity Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must administer state assessments or an equivalent exam to voucher students and report results to the state - Must report graduation rates of voucher students to the state - Must provide parents of voucher students an annual progress report including standardized assessment scores - Private schools with 25+ voucher students must publicly report aggregate student assessment data - Cannot charge voucher students higher tuition/fees than non-voucher students - These requirements do not apply to schools participating in the Special Education Scholarship Grants program 	<p>Opportunity Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No, but limited to the amount appropriated by the legislature - After all prior voucher recipients are funded, at least 50% of remaining funds must be used to fund students with household incomes not exceeding 100% FRPL - No more than 35% of remaining funds can be used for voucher students entering kindergarten of 1st grade <p>Special Education Scholarship Grants Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Cap 	<p>Opportunity Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with household incomes not exceeding 100% FRPL can receive up to \$4,200 - Students with household incomes between 100-133% FRPL receive 90% of the private school tuition/fees up to \$4,200 <p>Special Education Scholarship Grants Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$3,000 per semester

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Ohio					
<p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program (1995) - Educational Choice Scholarship Program (2005) - Autism Scholarship Program (2003) - Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (2011) <p>Statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - O.R.S. § 3313.974 to 3313.979 - O.R.S. § 3310.01 to 3310.17 - O.R.S. § 3310.41 - O.R.S. §3310.51 to 3310.64 <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students living in the Cleveland School District; priority given to students with household incomes under 200% of poverty guideline - Outside of Cleveland, students whose neighborhood school is low performing 2 out of 3 consecutive years, or students who have household incomes under 200% of the poverty guideline - Statewide, public school students diagnosed with Autism; students with a disability who have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, unless student is enrolled in a private school at the time it receives a nonpublic charter from the state and otherwise meets the student eligibility criteria - Special Needs and Autism program participants must officially enroll in public school in order to receive a voucher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private schools must be designated chartered nonpublic schools by the state - Private schools cannot charge tuition above the value of the voucher to students with household incomes under 200% of the poverty guideline - Chartered nonpublic schools must administer state assessments to voucher recipients - For Special Needs and Autism programs, private education providers must be approved by the State Board of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Cleveland there is no cap - Under the Education Choice Scholarship Program there is a cap of 60,000 vouchers - The Autism Scholarship Program has no cap - The Special Needs Scholarship Program cannot issue scholarships to more than 5% of all Ohio students who qualify 	<p>Cleveland and EdChoice Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades K-8 = \$4,250 Grades 9-12 = \$5,000 Autism and Special Needs Programs: \$20,000

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Oklahoma					
<p>Program: Lindsey Nicole Henry Students with Disabilities Scholarship Program (2010)</p> <p>Statute: 70 O.S. § 13-101.1</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	Students with a disability who has an Individualized Education Plan	Yes, the student must have spent the prior school year attending public school in the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be accredited by the State Board of Education - Must have been in operation for one school year or providing the State with evidence of financial stability - Will be academically accountable to parents for meeting the educational needs of the student - Adheres to its published discipline policy prior to the expulsion of a voucher student. 	No	The statute contains a funding formula that the State Department of Education must use annually to determine the max dollar value of the voucher
Utah					
<p>Program: Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship Program (2005)</p> <p>Statute: U.C.A. 53A-1a-702 to 710</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	- Students with certain disabilities that also have an Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must show evidence of financial stability - Must administer an annual assessment of each voucher student's academic progress and report the results to the student's parents - All participating schools must first apply to the state for approval 	None	Depending on the amount of special services the student needs, vouchers can be between 150% and 250% of the weighted per-pupil state allocation

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Vermont					
Program: Town Tuitioning Program (1869)	Students living in a district that does not operate either an elementary school or a high school, and where the voters of the district have approved the use of public funds for private school tuition	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private school must meet state school quality standards - Can be a school located in the state or outside of the state 	None	The voucher cannot exceed the average announced tuition of Vermont public schools
Statute: 16 V.S.A. § 821 - 836					
Jurisdiction: Statewide					

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Wisconsin					
<p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (1990) - Racine Parental Choice Program (2011) - Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (2013) <p>Statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - W.S. § 119.23 - W.S. § 118.60 <p>Jurisdiction:</p> <p>Only in Milwaukee and Racine, WI</p>	<p>Living in Milwaukee and Racine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any student with household incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty guideline <p>Living outside of Milwaukee and Racine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any student with household incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty guideline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only for students living in Racine school district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating schools must obtain accreditation by a private school accrediting agency - Schools must provide at least 1,050 hrs of direct instruction in grades 1-6 and 1,137 hrs in grades 7-12 - Schools cannot reject program applicants for any reason other than not having space available - Schools cannot charge any tuition on top of the voucher for students in grades K-8, or for students in grades 9-12 with household incomes up to 220% of the poverty guideline - A series of minimum student performance requirements must be met by each participating school - Participating schools must administer state assessments to all students enrolled in the private school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No cap in Milwaukee or Racine <p>Wisconsin Parental Choice Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to 500 students in 2013-14 school year - Limited to 1,000 students in 2014-15 school year - No more than 1% of a single district's enrollments can receive vouchers (doesn't apply to Milwaukee and Racine) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$6,442 in 2013-14 school year - \$7,210 for grades K-8 and \$7,856 for grades 9-12 in 2014-15 school year - Increases by an amount equal to the increase in state public school funding starting in 2015-16 school year - The value of the voucher can never decrease from one year to the next

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Washington, D.C.					
Program: D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (2004) Statute: H.R.1473, 112th Cong. (2011) Jurisdiction: District of Columbia	- Students with household incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty guideline - Current participants can remain in the program each year unless their household income surpasses 300% of the poverty guideline	No	- Must provide parents with an annual report of their student's academic progress - Must administer the assessment approved by the independent evaluator that tracks student performance in the program	None	- Grades K-8 = \$8,136 - Grades 9-12 = \$12,205 Maximum will increase annually with inflation