








# STATE VOUCHER PROGRAMS

STATE	PROGRAM	DATE STARTED	# OF STUDENTS IN PROGRAM	COST OF PROGRAM (ANNUALLY)	ELIGIBILITY RULES	AVG. COST OF VOUCHER / RANGE OF AMOUNT
	<i>Empowerment Scholarship Account</i>	Enacted July 2011	NA (Begins 2011-2012 school year)	NA (no financial cap on program)	<p>Allows the parents of students covered by the Individuals with disabilities Education Act and Section 504 to sign up for the account to pay for tuition and fees in a private school, online classes, tutoring, classes at home, etc. Parents receive 90 percent of what a public school would have received to educate a particular student. The amount varies by child depending on the type of disabilities.</p> <p>The program begins in the 2011-2012 school year and all of the state's 17,000 students with disabilities are eligible to sign up for an account so long as they were 1) full-time students who attended a public school for at least 100 days of the previous fiscal year; or 2) receiving a voucher from a school tuition organization, which is funded by donations made for private school tuition in exchange for tax credits.</p>	Ranges from \$5,000 to \$30,000 depending on disabilities.
	<i>DC Opportunity Scholarship Program</i>	2004	1,012 (2010-2011 school year)	\$8.6 million	Students must reside in the District of Columbia; family's annual income not to exceed 185 percent of the poverty line to enter program. Private schools do not have to accept applicants.	Up to \$7,500.






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	McKay Scholarship Program	1999	21,054 (2010-2011 school year)	\$152 million (2010 expenditures)	<p>Students with disabilities who have an IEP, and attended a Florida public school in any of the five years prior to the 2010-2011 school year.</p> <p>Private schools do not have to accept applicants. IDEA rights do not apply in private school.</p>	<p>Equal to public school cost for the student or private school tuition / fees, whichever is less.</p> <p>Avg. voucher = \$6,627 (2009)</p>
	Special Needs Scholarship Act	2007	2,550 (2010-2011 school year)	\$15.9 million (2010 expenditures)	<p>Students with disabilities who have attended public school the previous year and have an IEP.</p> <p>IDEA rights do not apply in private school.</p>	<p>Equal to state-funded public school cost for the student or private school tuition / fees, whichever is less.</p> <p>Avg. voucher = \$6,342 (2010)</p>
	Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities	2010	NA (begins 2011-2012 school year)	NA	<p>Students must have an IEP and need services for Autism, mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health impairment, specific learning disabilities or traumatic brain injury.</p> <p>Families with children with special needs must reside in the following parishes with populations of over 190,000: Orleans parish (New Orleans), Jefferson (Gretna), East Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge), Caddo (Shreveport), St. Tammany (Covington) and Lafayette (Lafayette).</p>	<p>50 percent of state per pupil funding or tuition charged by the private school.</p>






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	<i>Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (New Orleans program)</i>	2008	1,697 (2010-2011 school year)	\$7.8 million (2010 expenditures)	<p>Students must reside within the boundaries of the Orleans Parish.</p> <p>To be eligible: 1) a family must have an income that does not exceed 250 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines; 2) the child must be entering K-6 grades; and 3) the child must have been enrolled in a public school that is labeled academically unacceptable by the state or has an assessment index below 60.</p>	Up to \$6,300 per student
	<i>Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship</i>	2011	Begins 2012-2013 school year	<p>Could cost \$259 million in 2012-2013 school year</p> <p>Voucher amount is deducted from resident school district and redirected to the provider/parent.</p>	<p>Students who have an IEP. Limits awards to 5 percent of special needs population; 259,296 were identified in 2010-2011 school year (12,965 available in 2012).</p>	Each voucher will be worth 90 percent of the student's special education funding amount, with a cap of \$20,000.
	<i>Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program</i>	1995	5,032 (2011-2012 school year)	\$24.4 million (FY 2011 expenditures)	<p>Students must reside within the boundaries of the Cleveland Municipal School District and be entering grades K-12 in the 2012-2013 school year. Priority goes to low-income families.</p>	<p>In grades K-8, up to \$4,250; in grades 9-12, up to \$5,000</p> <p>Covers up to 75 percent or 90 percent of the school's tuition depending on gross family income.</p>






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	<i>EdChoice Scholarship Program</i>	2005	15,411 (2011-2012 school year)	\$71.6 million (FY 2011 expenditures)  Voucher amount is deducted from resident school district and redirected to the nonpublic school/parent.	Students who attend or are assigned to a public school building rated in <i>Academic Emergency</i> or <i>Academic Watch</i> on the state's report card for two of the past three years, or is a school building ranked in the bottom 10 percent statewide based on the Performance Index Score.  30,000 vouchers available in FY 2012; and 60,000 vouchers available in FY 2013.  Private schools do not have to accept applicants.	In grades K-8, up to \$4,250; in grades 9-12, up to \$5,000.
	<i>Autism Scholarship Program</i>	2003	2,027 approved to participate in 2011-2012 school year	\$32.2 million (FY 2011 expenditures)  Voucher amount is deducted from resident school district and redirected to the provider/parent.	Any student age 3-21 years old who is identified as autistic and resides in Ohio.	Up to \$20,000 based on services outlined in IEP.
	<i>Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities</i>	2010	10	\$114.8 million (2010 expenditures)	Eligible students must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and attended a public school in the state the previous year.  After receiving a voucher, the child will continue to receive a voucher each year through high school graduation or until the child returns to a public school.	The voucher is worth the state and local dollars spent on the child in his or her public school or private school tuition and fees, whichever is less, average voucher value: \$6,381 for 2010-2011.



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	Carson Smith Scholarship Program	2005	624 (2010-2011 school year)	\$3.2 million (2010 expenditures)	<p>Students with disabilities with an IEP are eligible to receive a voucher.</p> <p>Private schools do not have to accept applicants. IDEA rights do not apply in private school.</p>	<p>For students who receive more than three hours of special education services a day receive up to \$6,442 (2011).</p> <p>For students who receive less than three hours of special education services a day receive up to \$3,865 (2011).</p>
	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	1990	20,189 (2010-2011 school year)	\$130.8 million (2010 expenditures)	<p>Students must reside in the city of Milwaukee; family's income not to exceed 175 percent of federal poverty level to enter program, rising to 220 percent to remain in program.</p> <p>Governor Scott Walker signed the 2011-2013 Wisconsin state budget into law expanding the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and creating the Racine Parental Choice Pilot Program (see below). Changes to the Milwaukee voucher program include: removing enrollment caps, expanding student eligibility and expanding school participation eligibility.</p>	Average voucher: \$6,442 / student
	Racine Parental Choice Pilot Program	2011	NA	NA	The Racine Parental Choice Pilot Program allows students in the Racine Unified School District to receive a voucher to attend a participating private school. The program has an enrollment cap of 250 in the first year and 500 in the second, and no cap in subsequent years.	NA