

VOUCHER WATCH

This chart contains information about voucher proposals in Congress and in state legislatures.
Click on the bill number for a link to the full bill text.

Updated as of May 2018

STATE	BILL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Federal	<u>HR 610</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeals the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and redirects federal K-12 funds from public schools to private and religious school vouchers. Lowers nutrition standards in schools No provisions protecting the rights of voucher students with disabilities or requiring voucher schools serve low-income or homeless students or English language learners 	In January 2017, introduced and referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce.
Federal	<u>S 148/HR 895</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax credits (up to \$4,500 for individuals and \$100,000 for corporations) for amounts paid to non-profit organizations for K-12 private school tuition for low- and moderate-income families (up to 250% of poverty). Prohibits use of funds to provide FAPE* Requires schools receiving funds to comply with state laws against discrimination 	In January 2017, introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Finance.
Federal	<u>S 1294</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a voucher program for Native American students based on 90% of the per-pupil amount spent on Bureau of Indian Affairs schools; funds to be used for private school tuition and fees, online programs, 	Introduced in June 2017, and referred to committee on Indian Affairs.

		<p>technology, testing, transportation, etc. Disbursements initially to tribes, which can use up to 15% of funds for administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Does not require schools receiving funds to obey laws against discrimination 	
Federal	<u>HR 691/S 235</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends the IDEA* to allow states to use federal special education funds, distributed to parents, to supplement public or private funds for private school placements; states that a "school accepting such funds shall not be required to carry out any of the requirements of this title [IDEA] with respect to such child" • Expands current voucher program in Washington, D.C . • Establishes a pilot program for vouchers for children of military personnel living on military installations 	Introduced in January 2017, and referred to relevant committees in both houses of Congress.
Federal	<u>HR 1462</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to allow states to send federal funds for the education of disadvantaged children (Title I) to charter schools, private schools, or other unspecified educational programs • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Does not require schools or programs receiving funds to obey laws against discrimination 	Introduced in March 2017, and referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

<p>Federal</p>	<p><u>HR 5199 / S.2517</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Education Department to establish a program to provide children with parents on active duty in the uniformed services with funds for specified educational purposes • Children of active duty service members who reside in a local education agency that receives payment under the Impact Aid Program or who reside within the boundaries of a federal military installation are eligible to receive funds 	<p>Introduced in March 2018, and referred to the relevant committees in both houses of Congress.</p>
<p>Arizona</p>	<p><u>SB 1431/HB 2349</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands current voucher program to universal (all K-12 students eligible), phased in from 2017 to 2020, and reallocates to vouchers “the monies that would otherwise be allocated to a recipient's prior school district” • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students • Does not require schools receiving funds to obey laws against discrimination 	<p>Modified to cap new vouchers at 5,500 per year; passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in April 2017. Voucher opponents submitted sufficient signatures to halt implementation and place a vote to repeal law on Nov. 2018 ballot. Voucher proponents challenged manner in which signatures were collected. Judge ruled in January 2018 that voucher proponents lacked standing to challenge the voter referendum.</p>

<p>Colorado</p>	<p><u>SB 18-083</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows a taxpayer to claim a credit when the taxpayer enrolls a qualified child in a private school, or the taxpayer provides a scholarship to a qualified child for enrollment in a private school • The amount of the credit is equal to either the tuition paid or the scholarship provided to a qualified child or 50% of the previous year's state average per pupil revenues, whichever is less 	<p>Introduced in January 2018, referred to Appropriations Committee in February 2018. Passed in Senate in April 2018. Introduced in House in April 2018, and assigned to Education Committee.</p>
<p>Connecticut</p>	<p><u>HB 5340</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs the Department of Education to conduct a study concerning education savings account vouchers 	<p>Referred to the Joint Committee on Education in March 2018. Referred to House Committee on Appropriations in April 2018.</p>
<p>Florida</p>	<p><u>HB 15</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifies two of Florida's three existing voucher programs by expanding eligibility of home-schooled and private school students, increasing the dollar value of vouchers, and increasing eligibility for moderate income families Does not require schools receiving voucher funds to obey laws against discrimination in their admissions 	<p>Passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor.</p>
<p>Florida</p>	<p>No Bill Number</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various proposals being considered by the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission would enshrine private school vouchers in the Florida Constitution if subsequently approved by voters 	<p>Pending</p>

<p>Florida</p>	<p><u>SB 1172 / HB 1</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows parent of a public school student who was the victim of violence or abuse the opportunity to transfer the student to another public school or request and receive from the state a scholarship for the student to enroll in an eligible private school 	<p>Passed by House and Senate Education Committees in February 2018. Passed Senate Appropriations Subcommittee in February. Withdrawn from consideration.</p>
<p>Florida</p>	<p><u>HB 7055</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omnibus bill including the bullying voucher contained in SB1172/HB1 Includes reading scholarships for students who do not pass third-grade state language arts test 	<p>Passed by House on February 8, 2018. Referred to Senate Education Committee on February 14, 2018. Passed by Senate Education Committee with one amendment on February 20, 2018. Passed by Appropriations Committee with one amendment on February 27, 2018. Passed by House on March 5, 2018, and approved by the governor on March 11, 2018.</p>
<p>Florida</p>	<p><u>HB 1035</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates reading scholarships for students who scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide standardized English Language Arts assessment. 	<p>Introduced December 18, 2017. Passed out of Education Committee on February 13, 2018. Placed on Special Order Calendar February 28, 2018. Withdrawn from consideration in March 2018.</p>

<p>Georgia</p>	<p><u>HB 217</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands existing voucher program, which primarily benefits well-to-do families using religious schools, by increasing dollar amount of cap that redirects former state tax revenues to vouchers via tax credits • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Voucher schools may discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, etc. 	<p>Introduced in February 2017, different versions in House and Senate not reconciled by end of legislative session on March 30. Appointed to conference committees in February 2018. Passed by the House and Senate in March 2018. Signed by the governor in May 2018.</p>
<p>Idaho</p>	<p><u>HB 590</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes tax credit-funded education savings account vouchers 	<p>Introduced in February 2017. Passed by House in March 2018.</p>
<p>Illinois</p>	<p><u>SB 668</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes Opportunity Scholarship Program where custodian of a qualifying pupil is entitled to voucher to pay for qualified education expenses at nonpublic elementary schools in Cook County • Provides tax credits for contributions to Opportunity Scholarship Fund 	<p>Introduced in January 2017. Reassigned to Senate Education Committee in January 2018. Re-referred to assignments in April 2018.</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p><u>House File 2160</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases amount of tuition tax credit applied to first \$2000 (originally \$1000) paid by taxpayer for tuition to a non-public school and textbooks 	<p>Introduced in January 2018, and referred to Ways and Means Committee.</p>

<p>Iowa</p>	<p><u>House Study Bill 651</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides voucher for students currently enrolled in public schools • Vouchers calculated by using a formula that establishes the total funding at 90% of the sum of seven factors • 	<p>Did not advance prior to legislative deadline. Died in House Education Committee.</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p><u>Senate File 2091</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides vouchers for pre-K-12 students for “qualified educational expenses,” including private school, tutoring, fees, etc. • Money remaining in student’s account upon high school completion can be used for higher education costs 	<p>Introduced on January 23, 2018, and referred to Ways and Means Committee.</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p><u>Senate Study Bill 3206</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides vouchers for K-12 students for “qualified educational expenses,” including private school tuition, curriculum fees and materials, etc. • Vouchers equal to 60% of the regular program state cost per pupil for the same school budget yet 	<p>Passed Senate Appropriations subcommittee, and was sent to full Senate Appropriations Committee in March 2018. Bill will not advance this session.</p>
<p>Kentucky</p>	<p><u>HB 134</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a separate income tax credit for tuition assistance based on contributions made to a qualified voucher scholarship-granting organization • Families are eligible if their income is not more than 200% of the eligibility for reduced-price meals, if a student is in foster care, or if a student has certain disabilities or impairments • The individual tax credit value is 95% of scholarship contributions not to exceed \$1 million 	<p>Introduced in January 2018, and referred to the Appropriations & Revenue Committee.</p>

Louisiana	<u>HB 654</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands eligibility of voucher program from students with a family income that does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty line to include students who are dependent children of members of the military stationed in Louisiana, students who are in foster care, or students who are determined to be the victim of bullying 	Introduced in March 2018.
Louisiana	<u>HB 487/ HB 650</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes Section 529-type education savings accounts for K-12 tuition expenses at public or approved nonpublic schools Permits state-appropriated “earnings enhancements” based on income 	Introduced in March 2018. HB 487 failed to pass out of House in April 2018. HB 650 passed out of House in April 2018.
Louisiana	<u>SB 379 / SB 386 / SB 448</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conforms Section 529-type education savings accounts with federal 529 College Savings Plan allowance of account distributions for K-12 tuition expenses 	Introduced in March 2018.
Maryland		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016, Maryland established a \$5 million voucher program for the 2016-17 school year, which requires reauthorization each year Governor wanted increase to \$10 million 	Legislature limited increase to \$5.5 million. Legislative session ended in April.
Maryland	<u>SB 187</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State budget bill Increases voucher program budget cap from \$5.5 million to \$8.85 million for the 2018-2019 school year 	Signed by the governor on April 5, 2018.

<p>Mississippi</p>	<p><u>SB 2623</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands voucher program to all students • Capped at one-half of one percent of public school enrollment for the first year 	<p>Died in the Senate in February 2018.</p>
<p>Missouri</p>	<p><u>SB 612</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes tax credit-funded education savings account voucher program • Eligible students including students with disabilities, foster children, and children of active-duty military personnel 	<p>Introduced in January 2018, and reported out of Senate Government Reform Committee. Bill placed on informal calendar.</p>
<p>Nebraska</p>	<p><u>LB 118</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Education Savings Account vouchers, administered by Department of Revenue, and reduces state revenues through taxpayer tax credits to fund vouchers 	<p>Introduced in January 2017, and referred to Revenue Committee. Legislative session ended May 23. Bill carried over to 2018. Indefinitely postponed in April 2018</p>
<p>Nebraska</p>	<p><u>LC 188</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides vouchers, administered by Department of Revenue, to low- and moderate-income families for students to attend private schools; reduces state revenues through taxpayer tax credits equal to full amount contributed for vouchers up to statewide total of \$10 million in 2018 • States that voucher schools must not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students 	<p>Introduced in January 2017, and referred to Revenue Committee. Legislative session ended May 23. Bill carried over to 2018. Indefinitely postponed in April 2018.</p>

		with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students	
New Hampshire	<u>SB 193</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides vouchers, administered by Department of Education, to students whose families earn up to 300% of the federal poverty line, students assigned to low-performing schools, students with special needs, and students who applied to a scholarship organization but didn't receive a scholarship or applied to a charter school and were not admitted • Parents responsible for any balance over amount of voucher • Provides additional 5% to new voucher organizations for administrative expenses 	Introduced in January 2017 in Senate and passed in March, then introduced in House and referred to Education Committee. Passed by House in January 2018. Currently under consideration by House Finance Committee, which is considering an amendment to limit eligibility only to families with household incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty line, cap number of eligible students per district, and render K-1 students ineligible.
New Hampshire	<u>SB 8</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows towns using the town tuitioning program (which allows small towns, without resources to operate their own public schools, to send children to neighboring public school districts) to send students to non-sectarian private schools 	Passed and signed by governor.
Pennsylvania	<u>HB 1717 / SB 2</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifts funds from public schools to vouchers administered by State Treasurer and Department of Education for students with disabilities or attending high poverty schools, to be used for private or parochial schools or 	Both bills introduced in 2017, and referred to House and Senate Education Committees.

		<p>“nonpublic” online programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bills are similar, but SB 2 creates eligibility for more students • Establishes auditing of parent spending and potential prosecution • Voucher schools not required to alter creed, practices, admissions policy or curriculum. No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners, "at-risk" students, or LGBT students 	
Rhode Island	<u>SB 2378</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises tax-credit scholarship cap to \$5 million (from \$1.5 million) in fiscal year 2019, and increases cap by 15% following any year in which applications for credits exceed contributions by 10% 	Introduced and referred to Senate Finance Committee in February 2018.
Tennessee	<u>HB 126 / SB 0161</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides vouchers, administered by Department of Education, to low-income students in 5% of schools with lowest test scores • Shifts state and local funding that would otherwise go to student’s local school district • Awards 5,000 vouchers first year; growing to 20,000 in fourth year • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students 	Introduced in January 2017; recommended for passage by both education committees, and referred to government operations committees. Legislature voted against bill in April 2017. HB 126 put on calendar and subsequently taken off in January 2018.
Virginia	<u>HB 1286</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes voucher program for students who attended 	Introduced in January 2018. House

		public K-12 Virginia school two semesters prior to voucher application, with family income less than or equal to 300% of federal poverty guidelines, or who receive special education pursuant to IEP*	subcommittee failed to recommend reporting on February 5, 2018.
West Virginia	<u>SB 6</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes Education Savings Account voucher program for all children who have attended a public school in the 100 days preceding Voucher money may be used for private school tuition, fees, textbooks, tutoring, etc., but not for home schooling 	Introduced in January 2018, and referred to Senate Education Committee.
West Virginia	<u>HB 4008</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes Education Savings Account voucher program for students with disabilities 	Introduced in January 2018, and referred to Committee on Education, then Finance.
West Virginia	<u>SB 128</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes Education Savings Account voucher program for students enrolled in public school; if not enrolled, student must wait two years for eligibility Provides tax credits for education expenses, including \$500 per child credit for qualifying education-related expenses, or \$2500 per child tax credit for public and private education-related expenses for parents or guardians not receiving vouchers 	Introduced in January 2018, and referred to Senate Education Committee.
West Virginia	<u>HB 2429</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides income tax credit to parent or legal guardian up to \$1,000 per child for homeschooling expenses and 	Introduced in January 2018, and referred to House Education

		\$2,000 per child for private school	Committee.
Wisconsin	<u>SB725</u> / <u>AB 830</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes Education Savings Account voucher program in the amount of \$1000 for students identified as “gifted and talented” • Students may be enrolled in public or private school and must be eligible for free or reduced price lunch • No more than 2,000 scholarships in any school year 	Introduced in January 2018, and referred to Committee on Education. Public hearing held on Assembly bill on January 25, 2018. Several amendments offered. Failed to pass on March 28, 2018.

Notes:

*IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) is the federal law requiring public schools to find, evaluate, and serve students with disabilities through appropriate programs and services. IDEA protects student rights regarding IEPs, FAPE, and LRE.

*FAPE is a “Free Appropriate Public Education” as guaranteed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

*LRE is a “least restrictive environment” as guaranteed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

*IEP is an “Individualized Education Program” as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).