

## School Choice Expansion, State-by-State

In 2022-24, several (an exact count will force more frequent editing of this page 😞) states enacted significant universal choice expansion. Those states – mostly Republican dominated ('red' states) - created [education savings accounts](#) (ESA) or tuition tax credits to significantly reduce the public funding discrimination against the schoolchildren for whom a private school is a better fit than the assigned public school. Those initial steps towards non-discrimination in public funding left much room for further improvement: a) eliminate participation caps created by the ESA funding method; and b) further reductions in the funding discrimination.

Choice expansion – much reduced public funding discrimination against children for whom a private school would be a better fit than the assigned public school – through universal eligibility for ESAs or tuition tax credits is not politically feasible in many of the states that have not yet taken that route. IOPA aims to create politically feasible school choice expansion plans for the blue, purple, and RINO ("Republican in Name Only" when many legislators are inconsistently Republican) states, where the latter are states with Republican legislative majorities, except on the school choice expansion issue (for example: Idaho, and until recently TX and LA). Blue and purple denote Democrat-dominated states and states with divided government control.

Chartering is widely seen as school choice in action, but the charter school model doesn't always expand choice. Widespread lottery use to address long waitlists often create school chance, not choice. Ironically, the frequent lack of choice may be a key reason for the large number of alleged charter scandals, which could endanger school choice expansion. IOPA will address that dangerous source of confusion and build on the charter model reform possibilities that create a promising path to widespread school choice expansion; creative price decontrol being foremost among them.

Another IOPA virtue is its commitment to proper and optimal use of language, including a book in the works, [A Virtuous Language Police \(VLP\)](#). One of the **VLP** chapters argues that it is a costly mistake to use 'public education' as a synonym for 'public school system.' Longstanding, [repeated](#) formal "[Nation at Risk](#)" declarations are the result of public school system failure to keep the public education commitment to engaging, high-value schooling for everyone. Feedback please on the **VLP** strategy.

### Research projects underway:

Compare some high and low choice Canadian cities to make an equity argument for ending attendance area-based assignment to a public school and gradually ending the public funding discrimination against the children for whom a private school is a better fit.

Private School Access Index (PSAI). The PSAI will help extend school choice expansion progress beyond the first states to adopt universal school choice expansion (Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin), and to improve upon their initial steps.

### Planned projects (comments and financial support would be greatly appreciated), including proposals:

Inoculation Study of Alleged Charter School Scandals

Determinants of Charter School Degree of Specialization and Product Differentiation

Determinants of K-12 School System Performance: a) With partners in Canada, Chile, and Spain (seeking one for Germany), we aim to use a province/state-level data set to identify performance determinants; or b) through a national school system-based data set.

RINO, purple, and blue state school choice expansion plans.

School Choice Expansion targeted to lower income areas as an economic development catalyst.

The Effect of Testing on Student Achievement, exhaustive data base and meta-analysis.

***Political Control of K-12 Education*** is a book project whose purpose is to provide an objective basis for comparison of market control and political control of schooling personnel and content.

Important K-12 Reform Books, Recent Articles, and Dimensions:

[From IOPA – K-12 Publications](#) - [K-12 Blog Post Archive](#) [Forthcoming](#)

Attendance Areas [concentrate poverty](#) around the worst schools.

[Book Review](#) of Cara Fitzpatrick's terrible ***The Death of Public School***

**Other** - e-mail [IOPACHief@policytalk.org](mailto:IOPACHief@policytalk.org) to suggest additions. Also, [Reform Strategy Options](#).

See also items B, C, D, M, and Q in the [Why IOPA is Needed](#) Document.

Tools:

- A) The [Nonpartisan Education Review](#) – a peer-reviewed academic journal
- B) The school choice fiscal notes calculator (coming to [policytalk.org](http://policytalk.org) soon) exists because sloppy, disingenuous fiscal cost estimates (fiscal notes) often provided political cover for legislators to oppose school choice expansion. IOPA can create such fiscal notes, cheaply, on demand. Via ZOOM, we can determine what information the calculator requires, enter those numbers, and get important estimates immediately.