



Educational Choice for Children Act

H.R.531 and S.120

The *Educational Choice for Children Act* (ECCA) was re-introduced in January 2023 by Senators Bill Cassidy (LA) and Tim Scott (SC) and by Representatives Adrian Smith (NE-3) and Burgess Owens (UT-4). As of May 1st there are more than 20 Senate [co-sponsors](#) and more than 70 House [co-sponsors](#) of this legislation.

Federal scholarship tax credit. Non-refundable 100 percent credit to encourage individual and corporate contributions to not-for-profit scholarship granting organizations (SGOs); that is, private donations of up to \$10 billion annually to enable parents to choose the best, most suitable school or education service for approximately two million children. There is no role for the U.S. Department of Education and no new federal spending.

Eligible students. Students in grades kindergarten through 12 from both low-income and middle-class households are eligible in every state and every school setting, including homeschool; that is, children in households with incomes up to 300 percent of the median gross income level by region [determined](#) by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Scholarship use. SGOs determine the individual amount of scholarship awards and uses, including tuition, tutoring, education technology, on-line courses, and special needs services; e.g., students could remain in district public schools in more rural areas while using scholarship for education purposes other than tuition.

Religious liberty and private school autonomy. Prohibits governmental control, mandates or encroachment over SGOs that receive tax-credited contributions and schools that enroll scholarship recipients.

“Commitment to America”. The ECCA is the [legislative means](#) in the House Republican [Commitment](#) to “expand [parental choice](#) so that more than a million students can receive the education their parents know is best.”

Polling. School choice enjoys more across-the-board voter support of any public policy issue. In April 2023, the Senate Opportunity Fund polled 800 likely voters nationwide and found robust percentages in favor of school choice among conservatives (69-16), moderates (57-15), and liberals (60-19). In September 2022, the firm OnMessage, Inc., [polled](#) 1,000 likely voters nationwide that showed similar majority support for school choice among African-Americans (63-31), Latinos (66-28), suburban women (62-26), rural residents (67-22), and adults with school-age children (68-23).

Coalition Support. Invest in Education Coalition, American Federation for Children, Heritage Action for America, Club for Growth, FreedomWorks, Excel in Education, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Agudath Israel of America; Orthodox Union, Association of Christian Schools International, Catholic Vote, Concerned Women for America, ParentalRights.org, Home School Legal Defense Association, American Association of Christian Schools, Council for American Private Education, Family Policy Alliance, Children’s Scholarship Fund, Defense of Freedom Institute, Independent Women’s Forum-EFC, and many state-based organizations (listed [here](#)).

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