



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 September 18th there are 27 Senate [co-sponsors](#) and 122 House [co-sponsors](#) of this legislation, which is the most congressional support ever for a bill to enact parental choice in education.

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 nor mandates on states and school districts.

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 as [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 scholarships for education needs other than tuition or to cover homeschool expenses.

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 [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.”

Public Support. School choice enjoys more across-the-board voter support of any public policy issue over time. The latest example ([here](#)) is from a RealClear Opinion Research, which polled 1,000 registered voters from June 27-30, 2023 and found school choice overall had 71% support to 13% opposed. Among political parties, 66% of Democrats, 80% of Republicans and 69% of Independents favored school choice. In addition, 73% of black, 71% of Latino, 70% of Asian and 71% of white voters support school choice.

Coalition Support. Among the national and state-based organizations that have endorsed the ECCA are: American Federation for Children, America First Policy Institute, 60 Plus–American Association of Senior Citizens, Heritage Action for America, Club for Growth, Americans for Tax Reform, 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, Parental Rights Foundation, 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 (full list is [here](#)).