

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). There are over 30 Senate [co-sponsors](#) and over 145 House [co-sponsors](#) of this legislation, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, 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 as many as 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. For example, students could remain in district public schools 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 on SGOs that receive tax-credited contributions and schools that enroll scholarship recipients.

“Commitment to America”. Provides 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. RealClear Opinion Research [poll](#) in December 2023, which surveyed 1,000 registered voters, found that candidates’ support of school choice makes voters across-the-board more likely to support them. Seventy-six percent (76%) of voters overall say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports school choice. Supporters include 86% of Republicans, 77% of Democrats, and 67% of Independents. The Yes. Every Kid. organization [poll](#) in September 2023 found that 66% of voters support scholarship tax credits. This includes 80% of parents, 75% percent of Republicans, 65% of Independents, and 65% of Democrats. School choice enjoys more across-the-board voter support of any public policy issue over time. In October 2023, the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means conducted a [hearing](#) that prominently featured the ECCA.

Coalition Support. There are more than 140 national and state-based organizations and influencers that support and have endorsed the ECCA.

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Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA)
(118th Congress – S.120; H.R.531)**

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