

# Unpacking Tennessee's Education Savings Account/Voucher Program

In 2019, the Tennessee Legislature approved a pilot program in Memphis and Nashville to launch the Education Savings Account Program, also known as vouchers, which provide tuition vouchers to families to withdraw from public school and attend private school. Since then, the law has expanded to provide vouchers to more students, and the General Assembly is currently considering legislation to expand the program statewide. Read on to learn more about ESAs/vouchers and their impact on MNPS.

## Who is currently eligible for ESAs/vouchers?

- K-12 students in **Davidson, Shelby, or Hamilton** County who have attended public school for a full year since the 2019-2020 school year
- First-time public school students
- Students zoned to an **Achievement School District** school
- Students identified as **"at-risk"** by state law
- **Family income** cannot exceed twice the eligibility for free lunch

## What would pending legislation change?

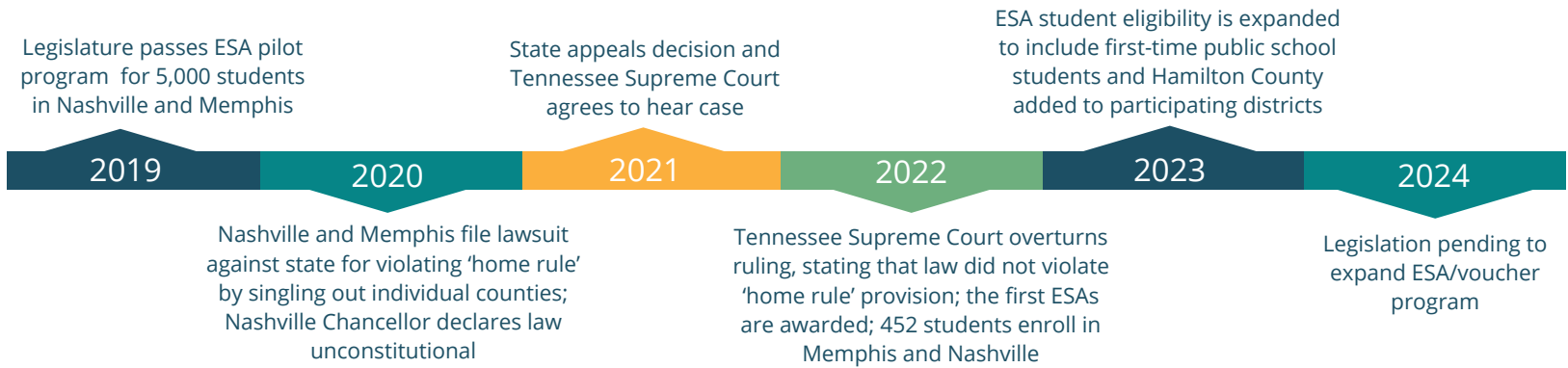
- K-12 students in all counties **statewide** would be eligible
- Up to **20,000 vouchers** would be provided
- Expansion of **eligibility requirements** to include students from higher income families
- Accountability and **testing requirements** for participating students would be reduced or eliminated

2,078 total students currently participating in Memphis, Nashville, and Chattanooga

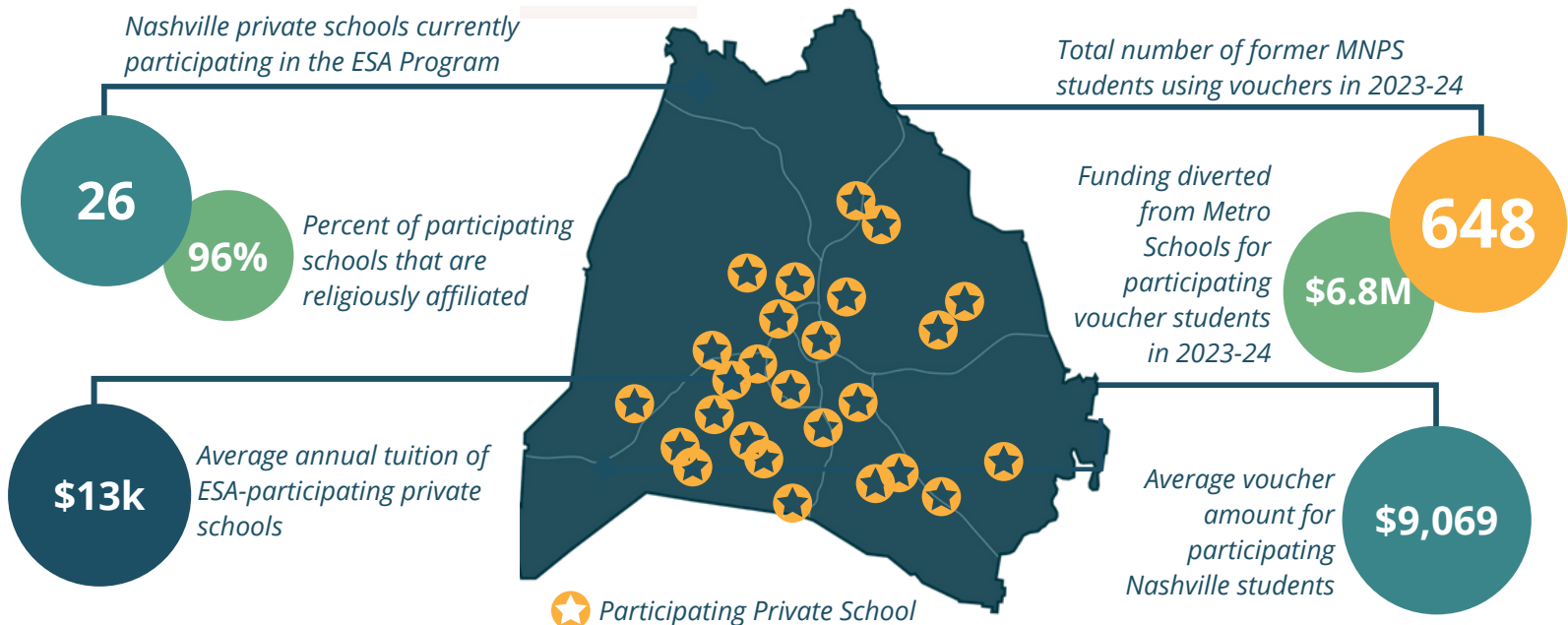


\$9,006 Average Voucher Amount Per Pupil

81 Participating Schools



## By the Numbers: Vouchers in Nashville



TDOE ESA Family Handbook 2024-25, ESA 2024, ESA Approved Schools 2023-24, ESA Annual Report, 2022-23, Chalkbeat Tennessee, TOG, 2023, TDOE, 2024, The Sycamore Institute, 2023