

What We Know about the Impact of School Vouchers

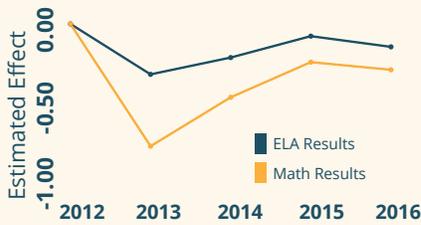
In 2019, Tennessee passed its first law implementing school vouchers - a dedicated amount of funding that families can access and use for private school tuition. Research on vouchers has yielded mixed outcomes on student achievement at the same time that sustainability and accountability have posed challenges. Read on to learn about the research on vouchers.

1 Impact of Vouchers on Student Outcomes Mixed to Negative

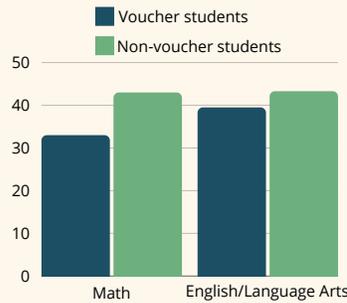
Studies from multiple states have found that vouchers have not improved test scores for participants, though impact on college enrollment, persistence, and attainment is mixed. Some states, including Tennessee, are considering waiving testing and accountability requirements, making it challenging to measure impact in the future.

Negative impact on student achievement

Students in Louisiana's voucher program saw significant drops in test scores in the first two years, with results remaining below peers in fourth year of program.

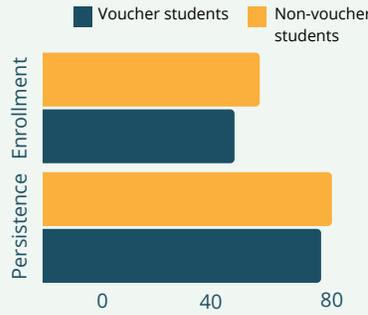


Students in DC's Opportunity Scholarship Program had lower math and English/language arts scores than their peers in public schools.

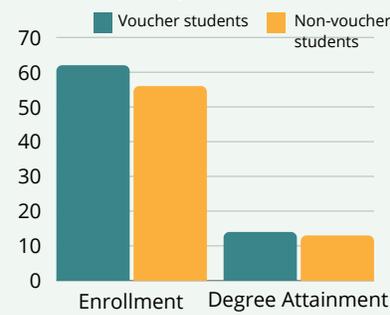


Mixed impact on college attainment

Indiana voucher recipients had lower college enrollment and persistence than their non-voucher peers.



Milwaukee voucher recipients enrolled and persisted in college at higher rates than their non-voucher peers.



2 Voucher programs increasingly benefiting higher income families and non-public school families

Originally intended to support school choice for low-income students, many states' voucher programs have increasingly expanded eligibility requirements, resulting in fewer low-income students using vouchers.

Family income of IN Voucher Participants



\$81,818

Average family income of students using vouchers in Indiana

\$62,000

Indiana median household income

75%

Percent of voucher applicants in Arizona who have never attended a public school

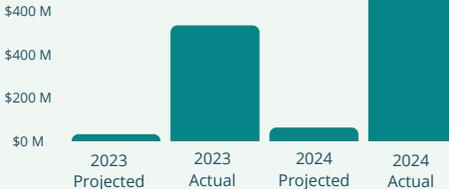
3 Sustainable Funding for Voucher Programs Challenging

Eligibility expansions have significantly increased allocations for voucher programs in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

\$400 million

Deficit in Arizona's budget caused by statewide expansion of vouchers

Joint AZ Legislative Budget Committee Projected v. Actual ESA Voucher Costs 2023-24



Since 2020, the Tennessee proposed ESA budget has increased by 303%



TN ESA Annual Report 2023; Erickson H.; Mills J.; Wolf P., 2020; Waddington R.; Berends M., 2018; Chingos M.; Kisida B., 2013; Education Research Alliance for New Orleans; SC Amicus Brief 2023-001673; IN Capital Chronicle, June 2023; IN Department of Education Choice Scholarship Program Annual Report 2023; AP News ("Arizona Governor vows to reign in skyrocketing school voucher program"), 2024, American Economic Association, 2018; Megan J. Austin and Max Pardo, 2021; Pathak, R. Walters, 2018; WFYI Indianapolis ("Indiana's school voucher program use at all-time high"), June 2023; Arizona Daily Star ("Most applying for Arizona vouchers already go to private schools", 2022; Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Evaluation of Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship Program, 2016; Urban Institute, Do Voucher Students Attain Higher Levels of Education? 2018.