

2025 Update on 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 provides tuition vouchers to families to withdraw from public school and attend private school. The General Assembly is currently considering a bill titled Education Freedom Act of 2025 to expand the program statewide. Read on to learn more about ESAs/vouchers in Nashville.

What would pending ESA/voucher legislation change?

Locations

K-12 students in all counties statewide would be eligible instead of only in Memphis, Nashville, and Chattanooga

Eligibility

10,000 vouchers reserved for low-income students, 10,000 open to any student (previously only low-income students were eligible)

Funding

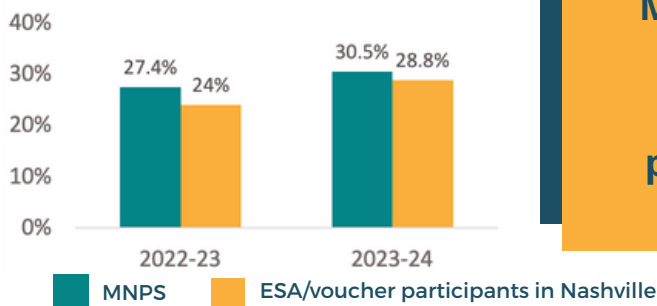
State guarantee that funding for districts would not decrease from loss of students using vouchers to address a significant concern for districts

Bonuses

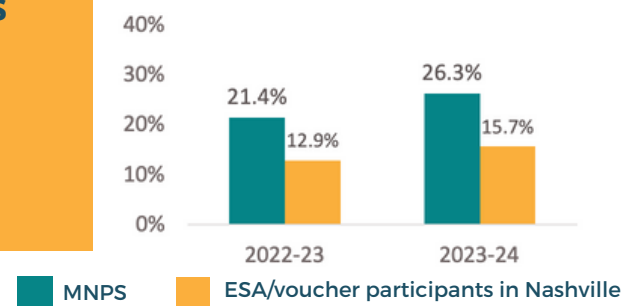
One-time \$2,000 bonus for every teacher in the state, which is not connected to the voucher program

How are Nashville's voucher-participating students performing in comparison to MNPS students?

Percent of students who met or exceeded expectations in English/Language Arts



Percent of students who met or exceeded expectations in Math



MNPS students outperform ESA/voucher participants in Nashville

Both student participation and private school participation in ESAs/Vouchers in Nashville have continued to increase each year

34

Nashville private schools currently participating in the ESA Program

4 online

86%

Percent of participating schools that are religiously affiliated

\$13.5M

Funding diverted from Metro Schools for participating voucher students in 2024-25

Roughly half of all voucher participants are in Nashville

Total number of former MNPS students using vouchers

1,146

\$7,075

459% increase since 2022-23

Average voucher amount in Nashville

Average annual tuition of ESA-participating private schools in Nashville

\$13,526