VOUCHER WATCH

This chart contains information about voucher proposals in Congress and in state legislatures.
Click on the bill number for a link to the full bill text.

Updated as of December 2017

STATE	BILL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Federal	HR 610	• Repeals the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and redirects federal K-12 funds from public schools to private and religious school vouchers. Lowers nutrition standards in schools • No provisions protecting the rights of voucher students with disabilities or requiring voucher schools serve low-income or homeless students or English language learners	In January 2017, introduced and referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce.
Federal	S 148/HR 895	• Revises the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax credits (up to $4,500 for individuals and $100,000 for corporations) for amounts paid to non-profit organizations for K-12 private school tuition for low- and moderate-income families (up to 250% of poverty). Prohibits use of funds to provide FAPE* • Requires schools receiving funds to comply with state laws against discrimination	In January 2017, introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Finance.
Federal	S 1294	• Establishes a voucher program for Native American students based on 90% of the per-pupil amount spent on Bureau of Indian Affairs schools; funds to be used for private school tuition and fees, online programs, technology, testing, transportation, etc. Disbursements	Introduced in June 2017, and referred to committee on Indian Affairs.

		- initially to tribes, which can use up to 15% of funds for administration - No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Does not require schools receiving funds to obey laws against discrimination	
Federal	HR 691/S 235	- Amends the IDEA* to allow states to use federal special education funds, distributed to parents, to supplement public or private funds for private school placements; states that a "school accepting such funds shall not be required to carry out any of the requirements of this title [IDEA] with respect to such child" - Expands current voucher program in Washington, D.C . - Establishes a pilot program for vouchers for children of military personnel living on military installations	Introduced in January 2017, and referred to relevant committees in both houses of Congress.
Federal	HR 1462	- Amends the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to allow states to send federal funds for the education of disadvantaged children (Title I) to charter schools, private schools, or other unspecified educational programs - No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Does not require schools or programs receiving funds to obey laws against discrimination	Introduced in March 2017, and referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce.
Arizona	SB 1431/HB 2349	- Expands current voucher program to universal (all K-12 students eligible), phased in from 2017 to 2020, and reallocates to vouchers "the monies that would otherwise be allocated to a recipient's prior school district" - No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk"	Modified to cap new vouchers at 5,500 per year; passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in April 2017. Voucher opponents submitted sufficient signatures to halt implementation

		• students • Does not require schools receiving funds to obey laws against discrimination	and place a vote to repeal law on Nov. 2018 ballot. Court challenge to manner in which signatures were collected in process.
Arkansas	HB 1222/SB 746	• Establishes a universal (all K-12 students eligible) voucher program and reallocates to vouchers "the monies that would otherwise be allocated to a recipient's prior school district" • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Does not require schools receiving funds to obey laws against discrimination • Revised bill (SB 746) would have capped vouchers at $3 million in the first year	In March 2017, House voted down HB 1222, and Senate passed revised bill, SB 746. House then voted down SB 746. Legislative session ended.
Connecticut	HB 6814	• The current introductory text is a placeholder, not an actual bill	Introduced in January 2017; no action to-date. Special session addressing budget crisis.
Florida	SB 1572	• Adds an additional voucher program, administered by State Departments of Education and Financial Services, to current voucher programs; uses state tax dollars to partly fund private school tuition, including online schools, private tutoring, home schooling, etc., and requires parents to pay costs above amount of voucher • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Does not require schools receiving voucher funds to obey laws against discrimination. Students may return to public school at any time	Introduced in March 2017 and referred to two Senate Committees, Education and Appropriations. No further action taken; session ended May 5.
Florida		• Modifies two of Florida's three existing voucher programs by expanding eligibility of home-school and private-school	Passed by both houses of the legislature, signed by governor.

	HB 15	students, increasing the dollar value of vouchers, and increasing eligibility for moderate income families. Does not require schools receiving voucher funds to obey laws against discrimination in their admissions, etc.	
Florida	No Bill Number	• Various proposals being considered by the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission would enshrine private school vouchers in the Florida Constitution if subsequently approved by voters.	Pending.
Georgia	HB 217	• Expands existing voucher program, which primarily benefits well-to-do families using religious schools, by increasing dollar amount of cap that redirects former state tax revenues to vouchers via tax credits • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Voucher schools may discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, etc.	Introduced in February 2017, different versions in House and Senate not reconciled by end of legislative session on March 30.
Illinois	HB 0443	• Establishes voucher program, administered by State Board of Education, for students in 10% of schools with lowest test scores • Reallocates public school funding to non-public schools; voucher amount varies by family income • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. Voucher schools not required to comply with anti-discrimination laws	In January 2017, introduced and referred to House Committee, which voted 11-6 against. Regular session ended May 31. Special session passed modified 75% tax-credit voucher bill capped at $75 million per year, available to corporations and individuals.
Iowa	Senate File 29	• Eliminates State Board of Education and Department of Education; transfers authority to Department of Management, various state agencies, "area education agencies," and community colleges to administer charter or "innovation" schools in "merged areas," and to local school boards	Introduced in January 2017, and referred to Education Committee. Legislative session ended in April.

		• Creates vouchers for all private and public school preK-12 students for private instruction (e.g., school, online, or tutoring) in the amount of average, regular state foundation aid per pupil, which no longer goes to students' school districts • Protects private provider autonomy and does not prohibit discrimination in admissions, etc.	
Iowa	House File 9	• Establishes a voucher program administered by the Department of Management to close low-test-score schools on parental request and pay part of private school tuition up to 75% of per-pupil spending for students from these schools • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. No provision prohibiting discrimination	Introduced in January 2017. Legislative session ended in April.
Maryland		• In 2016, Maryland established a $5 million voucher program for the 2016-17 school year, which requires reauthorization each year • Governor wanted increase to $10 million	Legislature limited increase to $5.5 million. Legislative session ended in April.
Minnesota	HF 0386/SF 256	• Establishes vouchers administered by Commissioner of Revenue for private or religious K-12 schools for low- and moderate-income families • Reduces state tax revenue by 70% of the value of donations by individuals and corporations to fund vouchers; up to $35 million for 2018 • Up to 5% of donations may be used for administrative expenses • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students. No provision prohibiting discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, etc.	Introduced in January 2017; Senate passed in April, companion bill referred to House committees. In May, legislature added these provisions to a larger bill, trying to avoid governor's promised veto of a voucher bill. Governor vetoed the larger bill.

Mississippi	HB 1406	• Expands vouchers for students with dyslexia to include grades 1-12	Passed by the legislature and signed by the governor.
Missouri	HB 773	• Provides vouchers, administered by the state treasurer, to all students who have attended a public school, on a first-to-apply basis, and reduces state revenues up to $30 million in the first year through individual and corporate tax credits to fund vouchers • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English learners or "at-risk" students	Introduced in January 2017, and referred to Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. No action taken. Session ended May 12.
Montana	HB 423	Provides vouchers, administered by Superintendent of Public Instruction, to students with disabilities aged 5 through 18, and removes students' rights to FAPE* and an IEP*; paid for with funds that would otherwise be allocated to the local school district • Ensures autonomy of private schools accepting vouchers, including discrimination in admissions, and requires parents to pay any balance due above amount of voucher • No provision requiring voucher schools serve English language learners or "at-risk" students	Referred to House Education Committee. Hearing held in February 2017. No further action. Session ended April 28. Legislature convenes next in January 2019.
Nebraska	LB 118	• Provides vouchers, administered by Department of Revenue, and reduces revenues through taxpayer tax credits to fund vouchers	Introduced in January 2017, and referred to Revenue Committee. Legislative session ended May 23.
Nebraska	LC 188	• Provides vouchers, administered by the Department of Revenue, to low- and moderate-income families for students to attend private schools; reduces revenues through taxpayer tax credits equal to full amount contributed for vouchers up to statewide total of $10 million in 2018 • States that voucher schools must not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin	Introduced in January 2017, and referred to Revenue Committee. Legislative session ended May 23.

		• No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students	
Nevada	SB 359 / 506	• Provides $25 million in first year, $35 million in second year from General Fund for vouchers for up to 5% of Nevada students; establishes new state office to administer vouchers and reduces state funds to public schools • No provision requiring voucher schools to serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students	Introduced in March 2017; legislative session closed without enactment.
New Hampshire	SB 193	• Provides vouchers, administered by the Department of Education, to all public or charter or home school K-12 students; shifts funding from public schools to vouchers to pay for a wide variety of education-related expenses • Parents responsible for any balance over amount of voucher • Provides additional 5% to new voucher organizations for administrative expenses	Introduced in January in Senate and passed in March, then introduced in House and referred to Education Committee.
New Hampshire	SB 8	• Allows towns using the town tuitioning program (allows small towns, without resources to operate their own public schools, to send children to neighboring public school districts) to send students to non-sectarian private schools	Passed and signed by the governor.
New Jersey		• Governor proposes funding for a pilot voucher program every year in State Budget; Legislature removes appropriation	Legislative session ended in July without adoption of governor's voucher program.
	SB 257	• Budget bill adds third voucher program (ESAs) with $3.5 million for start-up in 2018-19	Passed, vetoed by governor, and veto overridden by legislature.

North Carolina		• Increases funding by $100 million over next ten years for state's two other voucher programs enacted in 2013	
Ohio	SB 85	• Changes and greatly expands current voucher programs to make approximately 75% of Ohio students eligible, with sliding scale value of voucher based on family income • Requires public school districts to provide unfunded transportation for most voucher students • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students • Most Ohio vouchers currently go to religious schools	Introduced in March 2017. No vote by Senate.
Oklahoma	HB 2295	• Provides vouchers for all public school students to use at private or religious schools, with sliding scale values depending on family income and student disability status • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students • See summary of Senate bill, below	Introduced in February 2017 in the House and referred to Rules Committee. Legislative session ended without passage.
Oklahoma	SB 461	• Provides $2,000 tax-exempt vouchers per year, administered by State Treasurer, to fund educational or extracurricular activities, such as online curriculum, tutoring, technology, or athletics, with all students in public, charter, or online schools eligible • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or other "at-risk" students. No provision prohibiting discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, etc.	Introduced in Senate in February and referred to Education Committee then to Appropriations Committee. Legislative session ended without passage.
Oklahoma	SB 301	• Expands existing disability voucher program to include non-disabled children in foster care, children who were	Enacted into law July 2017.

		adopted out of state custody, and children who have IEP* under state (not only federal) law	
Pennsylvania	HB 1717/SB 2	• Shifts funds from public schools to vouchers administered by State Treasurer and Department of Education for students with disabilities or attending high poverty schools, to be used for private or parochial schools or "nonpublic" online programs • These bills are similar, but SB 2 creates eligibility for more students • Establishes auditing of parent spending and potential prosecution Voucher schools not required to alter creed, practices, admissions policy or curriculum. No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners, "at-risk" students, or LGBT students	Both bills introduced in 2017 and referred to the House (HB 1717) and Senate (SB 2) Education Committees
Tennessee	HB 126/SB 0161	• Provides vouchers, administered by Department of Education, to low-income students in 5% of schools with lowest test scores • Shifts state and local funding that would otherwise go to student's local school district • Awards 5,000 vouchers first year; growing to 20,000 in fourth year • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students	Introduced in January 2017; recommended for passage by both education committees, and referred to government operations committees. Legislature voted against bill in April. No further action this session.
		• Provides two voucher programs, administered by the State Comptroller, for students with disabilities (who thereby lose their rights under IDEA*) or students from families below a certain income level; limited to students in non-rural counties; vouchers to attend private or religious schools or pay for online courses, tutoring, and	Introduced in January 2017. Senate passed scaled-down version March 30; House did not vote and indicated in budget votes that it would not support vouchers this session. Governor called special

Texas	SB 3	other expenses • Funds for one voucher program would otherwise go to student's local school district; second voucher program would reduce state tax revenues through tax credits for specified companies that support program	session in which vouchers were considered but rejected by House.
Texas	HR 21	• Funds Texas public schools for the upcoming school year • Late in the process of considering this bill, a Senate amendment added a voucher program	Regular session ended without passage, meaning no increase in school funding or improvements in funding formula. Special session passed modest funding increase without vouchers.
West Virginia	HB 2689/SB 273	• Provides a universal voucher program (all K-12 students eligible) administered by the State Treasurer; reduces state revenues through a parental tax credit • Students may return to public school at any time • Parents who do not apply for a voucher can claim a $2,500 tax credit • Appears to require that the local school district serve all students with disabilities	Introduced in February 2017, and referred to House Committee on Education. Legislature adjourned without action on bills.
Wyoming	HB 228	• Provides vouchers administered by State Superintendent of Public Instruction for K-12 students; reduces tax revenue through tax credits to fund vouchers • No provision requiring voucher schools serve students with disabilities, English language learners or "at-risk" students.	Introduced in January 2017, referred to Education Committee; did not pass out of committee. Session ended.

Notes:
*IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) is the federal law requiring public schools to find, evaluate, and serve students with disabilities through appropriate programs and services. IDEA protects student rights regarding IEPs, FAPE, and LRE.

*FAPE is a "Free Appropriate Public Education" as guaranteed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

*LRE is a "least restrictive environment" as guaranteed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

*IEP is an "Individualized Education Program" as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).