

Our children have nearly limitless potential. It's time to say goodbye to stifling education limits.



**Let Them
Learn Oregon**

School Choice + Open Enrollment for Oregon

What is the School Choice Amendment?

Oregon children deserve an education without stifling limits! The School Choice Amendment will allow any K-12 student in Oregon to opt out of the public school system and request a School Choice Account. The Account is an Education Savings Account (ESA) administered by a nonprofit organization, chosen by the parent, into which the State will deposit a portion of what Oregon spends on a student in public school. With a School Choice Account, parents will have the opportunity to customize their child's education and direct the funds to pay for their child's private school tuition, homeschool curriculum, educational therapy, tutors, computers, transportation, vocational schools, and other approved educational resources.

What is the Open Enrollment Amendment?

Say goodbye to education barriers based on where the student lives! The Open Enrollment Amendment will give public school students the opportunity to attend any traditional public school or any public charter school that has available space. No family will be forced to have their children attend an assigned public school or have to move in order to attend a different public school. Students in the district will have first priority, and if there is remaining space, then new students will be able to use the Open Enrollment measure to attend the school. Oregon previously had Open Enrollment until the legislature removed it in 2019. Open Enrollment was beneficial for many students. It's time to bring it back!

How will these measures become law?

These education measures will be voted on by Oregonians! The measures have already cleared the state process — the Secretary of State acknowledges that the measures meet the constitutional requirements and the Attorney General has issued certified ballot titles. Now we need to gather about 200,000 petition signatures for each measure in order to put them on the November 2024 ballot. The Let Them Learn campaign is confident we will get there because we're powered by parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and concerned citizens across our state.

Who will qualify for a School Choice Account?

Any Oregon resident student who is eligible for enrollment or is already enrolled in an Oregon K-12 public school may choose to opt out of public school and request a School Choice Account.

How much will be transferred to the School Choice Account?

The minimum amount transferred to a School Choice Account will be \$7,600 per student per year. Once deposited into the School Choice Account, the funds will no longer be public funds — legally severing the tie between the funds and the State.

How will the School Choice Account be paid for?

The money to fund the School Choice Accounts will come from the Corporate Activity Tax, lottery, income, and property taxes which Oregon citizens already pay. The legislature allocates a portion of those taxes to be used for education. Of the amount the State spends on a public school student, a portion (\$7,600) will be transferred to the School Choice Account. The remaining tax dollars will be used for public schools. The School Choice Accounts will not be funded with any of the federal funds, levies, bonds, special grants, or statutory or special carve-outs that the public schools receive.

Will my taxes increase to fund the School Choice Account?

No! The School Choice Account will utilize only a portion of a child's state education funding. From the perspective of the State as a whole, state spending would remain unchanged — the money would just move from one school setting to another.

How may parents spend the money in the School Choice Account?

Parents may direct the money be spent on nonpublic education costs for their child such as private school tuition, homeschool curricula, education therapy, tutors, or transportation. Unspent School Choice Account funds will roll over each year until the child completes high school, and the amount remaining upon graduation may be spent on college/university or vocational training within the state of Oregon.

How will the School Choice Account impact public schools?

The School Choice Account will utilize existing education dollars and allow those education dollars to follow students to the educational setting that meets their needs. When students choose to leave their public school, they will take a portion of their education dollars with them. The rest of their education dollars will remain at the public school, resulting in more funding for the students who remain in public school and relieving classroom overcrowding. A December 2022 report from Oregon's Cascade Policy Institute ⁽¹⁾ found that school choice could increase the amount of funds available to spend on students who remain in public schools by \$277 per student. But the more important point is this: the public good is served when Oregon's students succeed. A majority of credible school choice studies ⁽²⁾ have found that private school choice raises test scores for participants and even improves academic outcomes for students who remain in public school.

(1) Education Savings Accounts: A School Choice Solution That Can Save States Money - Cascade Policy Institute

(2) www.federationforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/AFC-School-Choice-Research-Summary.pdf

Do Oregonians support school choice?

Yes! 69% of Oregon adults and 75% ⁽³⁾ of Oregon K-12 parents support an ESA (Education Savings Account) — which is another name for our School Choice Account.

(3) edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/oregon

In a nutshell, why do we need these two measures? Because they will:

- 1.** Give children access to the educational setting best for them, where they can reach their potential!
- 2.** Empower parents to choose the educational setting best for their child.
- 3.** Provide all students with a quality education regardless of zip code or income level.
- 4.** Allow education dollars to follow students to their preferred educational setting.
- 5.** Protect the autonomy and uniqueness of private schools and homeschools from government control.

What can you do to help?

- 1.** Give! We know our opposition will be well-funded. We need your donations to pay for gathering signatures, conducting research and providing information to voters.
- 2.** Volunteer! If you have 15 minutes or 5 hours to spare, we have many capacities where your assistance would be incredible — whether gathering signatures or fundraising.
- 3.** Spread the word! You have an important network of people who trust your voice. Share this information with them in person, on your social media platforms, and in other creative ways.



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