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School Voucher Laws: State-by-State Comparison (January 2014)

State Information	Major Provisions				
	Student Eligibility Requirements	Previous public school attendance requirement	Private School Participation Standards	Cap on # of Vouchers Awarded	Max. dollar value of voucher
Arizona					
Program: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (2011) Statute: A.R.S. 15-2401 – 15-2404 Jurisdiction: Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with certain disabilities - Students attending public schools or districts assigned a D or F under the school grading system - Child of an active duty service member - Students living in foster care 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private schools are not required to administer state assessments to voucher recipients 	No cap	90% of what the district would have received in state funding for each participating student
Florida					
Program: John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program (2001) Statute: Fla. Stat. § 1002.39 Jurisdiction: Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with certain disabilities - Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must annually provide parents with a written statement of each student's progress - Private schools are not required to administer state assessments but parents can ask that their student take state exams and the private school must cooperate 	No cap	- Equal to what a public school would receive for each participating student

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Georgia					
Program: Special Needs Scholarship Program (2007) Statute: O.C.G.A. TITLE 20 Chapter 2 Article 33 Jurisdiction: Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with certain disabilities - Students must also have an IEP plan in effect 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must have been open for at least one year or otherwise must get approval from the state on its financial stability - Must report student assessment data to the state and to a student's parents 	No cap	Equal to what a public school would receive for each participating student, not counting federal funds

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Indiana					
<p>Program: Indiana Choice Scholarship Program (2011)</p> <p>Statute: IC 20-51-4</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with household incomes up to 150% of the free and reduced price lunch guideline (FRPL) - Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and a household income not exceeding 200% FRPL - Students whose neighborhood public school is assigned an 'F' by the state accountability system and have a household income not exceeding 150% FRPL - Students who previously received either a voucher or tax credit scholarship with household income not exceeding 200% FRPL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, student must have attended public school previous two semesters - This requirement is waived for students whose neighborhood school receives an 'F' grade by the state - This requirement is waived if a student received a tax credit scholarship the previous school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be accredited by the state or a regional accrediting agency - Schools must administer state assessments to scholarship recipients - Schools will be included in the state school grading system - Schools must implement annual teacher performance evaluation plans 	15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90% of the state per-pupil funding for students that qualify for FRPL - 50% of the state per-pupil funding for students with household incomes up to 150% FRPL, or in the case where income is allowed to reach 200% FRPL - \$4,500 for students in grades 1-8

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Louisiana					
<p>Program: - Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (2008) - School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (2010)</p> <p>Statute: - RS 17:4011 - 17:4025 - RS 17:4031</p> <p>Jurisdiction: - Income-based voucher: Statewide - Special needs voucher: only eligible in certain parishes</p>	<p>- Students with household incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty guideline and who attended a public school that received a school grade of C or lower under the school grading system</p> <p>- Students entering kindergarten who meets the income requirement</p> <p>- Students in grades K-8 with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) that have been diagnosed with certain disabilities and live in an eligible parish</p>	<p>- Income-based voucher: Yes</p> <p>- Special needs voucher: No</p>	<p>- Schools must administer state assessments to voucher recipients</p> <p>- Schools with at least 40 voucher students in grades 3-8, or in high school, receive a performance score based on the test results of voucher students called the Scholarship Cohort Index (SCI)</p> <p>- Schools that receive an SCI score less than 50 cannot enroll new voucher students the following year</p>	No cap	<p>- Income-based voucher: Equal to the state per-pupil allocation</p> <p>- Special needs voucher: Up to 50% of the state per-pupil allocation</p>
Maine					
<p>Program: Town Tuitioning Program (1873)</p> <p>Statute: M.R.S. 20-A § 2951 to 2955</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	<p>Students residing in a district that does not operate any public schools, or does not contract with school's of another district</p>	No	<p>- If at least 60% of a private school's student attendance is publicly funded, the school must participate in the state assessments</p> <p>- Must be non-religious</p>	None	Equal to the statewide average per-pupil allocation

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Mississippi					
<p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program (2012) - Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-Language Impairments (2013) <p>Statute:</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. Title 37, Chapter 173</p> <p>2012 HB 1031</p> <p>2013 HB 896</p> <p>Jurisdiction:</p> <p>Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students in grades 1-6 who have been diagnosed with dyslexia - Students in grades 1-6 who meet the IDEA definition of having a speech-language impairment 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating private schools must receive accreditation from the state in the practice of dyslexia therapy or speech-language therapy - The therapy must be delivered by a licensed dyslexia therapist or a certified speech-language pathologist - Must provide parents of scholarship recipients an annual report of the student's progress 	No cap	Equal to the state's base per-pupil allocation plus any state and federal categorical funding that participants would otherwise qualify for

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North Carolina					
<p>Program: - Opportunity Scholarship Program (2013) - Special Education Scholarship Grants for Children With Disabilities (2013)</p> <p>Statute N.C.G.S. "§ 115C-562</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with household incomes not exceeding 133% of the free and reduced price lunch guideline (FRPL) - Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who are not already placed in a private school at the district's expense 	<p>Yes, unless the student is a foster child</p>	<p>Opportunity Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must administer state assessments or an equivalent exam to voucher students and report results to the state - Must report graduation rates of voucher students to the state - Must provide parents of voucher students an annual progress report including standardized assessment scores - Private schools with 25+ voucher students must publicly report aggregate student assessment data - Cannot charge voucher students higher tuition/fees than non-voucher students - These requirements do not apply to schools participating in the Special Education Scholarship Grants program 	<p>Opportunity Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No, but limited to the amount appropriated by the legislature - After all prior voucher recipients are funded, at least 50% of remaining funds must be used to fund students with household incomes not exceeding 100% FRPL - No more than 35% of remaining funds can be used for voucher students entering kindergarten of 1st grade <p>Special Education Scholarship Grants Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Cap 	<p>Opportunity Scholarship Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students with household incomes not exceeding 100% FRPL can receive up to \$4,200 - Students with household incomes between 100-133% FRPL receive 90% of the private school tuition/fees up to \$4,200 <p>Special Education Scholarship Grants Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$3,000 per semester

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Ohio					
<p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program (1995) - Educational Choice Scholarship Program (2005) - Autism Scholarship Program (2003) - Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (2011) <p>Statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - O.R.S. § 3313.974 to 3313.979 - O.R.S. § 3310.01 to 3310.17 - O.R.S. § 3310.41 - O.R.S. §3310.51 to 3310.64 <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students living in the Cleveland School District; priority given to students with household incomes under 200% of poverty guideline - Outside of Cleveland, students whose neighborhood school is low performing 2 out of 3 consecutive years, or students who have household incomes under 200% of the poverty guideline - Statewide, public school students diagnosed with Autism; students with a disability who have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, unless student is enrolled in a private school at the time it receives a nonpublic charter from the state and otherwise meets the student eligibility criteria - Special Needs and Autism program participants must officially enroll in public school in order to receive a voucher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private schools must be designated chartered nonpublic schools by the state - Private schools cannot charge tuition above the value of the voucher to students with household incomes under 200% of the poverty guideline - Chartered nonpublic schools must administer state assessments to voucher recipients - For Special Needs and Autism programs, private education providers must be approved by the State Board of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Cleveland there is no cap - Under the Education Choice Scholarship Program there is a cap of 60,000 vouchers - The Autism Scholarship Program has no cap - The Special Needs Scholarship Program cannot issue scholarships to more than 5% of all Ohio students who qualify 	<p>Cleveland and EdChoice Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades K-8 = \$4,250 Grades 9-12 = \$5,000 Autism and Special Needs Programs: \$20,000

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Oklahoma					
<p>Program: Lindsey Nicole Henry Students with Disabilities Scholarship Program (2010)</p> <p>Statute: 70 O.S. § 13-101.1</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	Students with a disability who has an Individualized Education Plan	Yes, the student must have spent the prior school year attending public school in the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be accredited by the State Board of Education - Must have been in operation for one school year or providing the State with evidence of financial stability - Will be academically accountable to parents for meeting the educational needs of the student - Adheres to its published discipline policy prior to the expulsion of a voucher student. 	No	The statute contains a funding formula that the State Department of Education must use annually to determine the max dollar value of the voucher
Utah					
<p>Program: Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship Program (2005)</p> <p>Statute: U.C.A. 53A-1a-702 to 710</p> <p>Jurisdiction: Statewide</p>	- Students with certain disabilities that also have an Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must show evidence of financial stability - Must administer an annual assessment of each voucher student's academic progress and report the results to the student's parents - All participating schools must first apply to the state for approval 	None	Depending on the amount of special services the student needs, vouchers can be between 150% and 250% of the weighted per-pupil state allocation

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Vermont					
Program: Town Tuitioning Program (1869) Statute: 16 V.S.A. § 821 - 836 Jurisdiction: Statewide	Students living in a district that does not operate either an elementary school or a high school, and where the voters of the district have approved the use of public funds for private school tuition	No	- Private school must meet state school quality standards - Can be a school located in the state or outside of the state	None	The voucher cannot exceed the average announced tuition of Vermont public schools

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Wisconsin					
<p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (1990) - Racine Parental Choice Program (2011) - Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (2013) <p>Statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - W.S. § 119.23 - W.S. § 118.60 <p>Jurisdiction:</p> <p>Only in Milwaukee and Racine, WI</p>	<p>Living in Milwaukee and Racine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any student with household incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty guideline <p>Living outside of Milwaukee and Racine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any student with household incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty guideline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only for students living in Racine school district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating schools must obtain accreditation by a private school accrediting agency - Schools must provide at least 1,050 hrs of direct instruction in grades 1-6 and 1,137 hrs in grades 7-12 - Schools cannot reject program applicants for any reason other than not having space available - Schools cannot charge any tuition on top of the voucher for students in grades K-8, or for students in grades 9-12 with household incomes up to 220% of the poverty guideline - A series of minimum student performance requirements must be met by each participating school - Participating schools must administer state assessments to all students enrolled in the private school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No cap in Milwaukee or Racine <p>Wisconsin Parental Choice Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to 500 students in 2013-14 school year - Limited to 1,000 students in 2014-15 school year - No more than 1% of a single district's enrollments can receive vouchers (doesn't apply to Milwaukee and Racine) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$6,442 in 2013-14 school year - \$7,210 for grades K-8 and \$7,856 for grades 9-12 in 2014-15 school year - Increases by an amount equal to the increase in state public school funding starting in 2015-16 school year - The value of the voucher can never decrease from one year to the next

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Washington, D.C.					
Program: D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (2004) Statute: H.R.1473, 112th Cong. (2011) Jurisdiction: District of Columbia	- Students with household incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty guideline - Current participants can remain in the program each year unless their household income surpasses 300% of the poverty guideline	No	- Must provide parents with an annual report of their student's academic progress - Must administer the assessment approved by the independent evaluator that tracks student performance in the program	None	- Grades K-8 = \$8,136 - Grades 9-12 = \$12,205 Maximum will increase annually with inflation