



50-State Comparison

Vouchers

Student eligibility requirements: Primary requirements

March 2021

Below are the different voucher program eligibility requirements and the number of states that have them.

- **Students with a disability:** **12** programs in **10** states. Generally, these programs require eligible students to have an identified disability and an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- **Income eligible households:** **Five** states plus the District of Columbia. States typically require eligible students to have a household income within a certain percentage of the federal poverty guidelines.
- **Geography:** **Three** programs in **two** states. Students residing within certain cities are eligible for these programs.
- **Low-performing schools:** **One** state has a voucher program that requires a student's resident school or district to be below a certain performance threshold.
- **Combination:** **Three** states. In these programs, states require eligible students meet two or more of the following eligibility requirements: IEP, income-eligible household or low-performing resident school.
- **Town tuitioning:** **Three** states. School districts without a public school provide students residing in the district with funds to either attend a private school or a public school in another district.

Note: Some states require students to attend a public school prior to participating in a private school choice program. Please refer to the "Student eligibility requirement: Previous public school attendance" data point to see which states and programs have such requirements for the given private school choice program.

STATE	Program Name	Student eligibility requirements: Primary requirements
Arkansas	Succeed Scholarship Program	Students who meet one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is a current or former foster care student. - Has an individualized education program or medically diagnosed by a licensed physician as a child with disability. - Participated in the program during the prior school year but has not graduated high school or attained twenty-one years of age. - Has an individualized service plan.

STATE	Program Name	Student eligibility requirements: Primary requirements
District of Columbia	Opportunity Scholarship Program	<p>Students who meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receive assistance from the supplemental nutrition assistance program. - Have a household income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. <p>In the event that a student received a scholarship in the preceding year, their household income must be below 300% of the federal poverty line.</p>
Florida	John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	<p>Students who meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have an Individual Education Program (IEP). - Have a 504 accommodation plan.
	Family Empowerment Scholarship	<p>Students who meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualify for the food assistance program, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program, or the Food Distribution Program on American Indian reservations. - Have a household income of 185% or less of the federal poverty level. - Currently or formerly (last fiscal year) in foster care. - Other household income requirement.
Georgia	Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	Students with an Individual Education Program (IEP).
Indiana	Choice Scholarship Program	<p>Students between the ages of 5 and 22 who are residents of Indiana and meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have an Individual Education Program (IEP) and a household income of not more than 200% of the amount required to qualify for the free- or reduced-price lunch program. - Would otherwise attend a school placed in the lowest category or designation of school improvement and is a member of a household with an annual income of not more than 150% of the amount required to qualify for the free- or reduced-price lunch program. <p>If a student received the scholarship in the previous year they still qualify so long as their annual income is not more than 200 of the amount required to qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch.</p>

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Louisiana	Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence	<p>Students with a household income of less than 250% of the federal poverty level that meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kindergartener in a school within the Recovery School District. - Enrolled in a low-performing school - receiving a C, D, or F - the previous school year. - Received a scholarship through this program in the in the previous school year.
	School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities	<p>Students with a disability who are eligible to attend a public school in a parish with over 190,000 people and meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have an Individual Education Plan. - Have a service plan developed by the nonpublic school the student attends or will attend.
Maine	Town Tuitioning Program	Students residing in a school district that does not maintain a public school with the students' grade.
Maryland	Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program	Students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program.
Mississippi	Nate Rogers Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program/ Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-Language Impairments Program	<p>Students in grades K-6 who have been screened and diagnosed with a speech-language impairment.</p> <p>Homeschool or virtual school students are not eligible to participate.</p>
	Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program	<p>Students in grades 1 through 12 who have been screened and diagnosed with dyslexia.</p> <p>Homeschool or virtual school students are not eligible to participate.</p>
New Hampshire	Town Tuitioning Program	Students residing in a school district that does not maintain a public school with the students' grade.

STATE	Program Name	Student eligibility requirements: Primary requirements
North Carolina	Opportunity Scholarship	<p>Students with a household income up to 150% of the income requirements for free- or reduced-price meal programs and who meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a North Carolina school during the previous semester. - Received a scholarship grant the previous year. - Entering kindergarten or first grade. - In foster care. - Adopted in the prior year. - Child of active-duty military personnel.
	Special Education Scholarships for Children with Disabilities	<p>Students with a disability who meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified as a child with a disability prior to the year of enrollment in kindergarten or first grade. - Received special education services at a North Carolina public school or as a preschool student in the previous semester. - Received a scholarship in the previous semester. - Child of active-duty military personnel. - In foster care. - Adopted in the prior year. - Lived in the state at least six months. <p>Student eligibility must be assessed at least every three years by a local school district or a licensed psychiatrist or school psychologist.</p>
Ohio	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	<p>Students assigned to low-performing schools in a resident district that has an average of 20% or more of its students qualified to be included in the formula to distribute federal Title I funds. However, students are ineligible if their resident district is operating under the Alternative Schools plan.</p> <p>Eligible students are identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, eligible students are those enrolled in, or assigned to, a school ranked in the lowest 20% of buildings for each of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. - In the 2023-24 school year, they must belong to a school ranked in the lowest 20% of buildings for each of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. - In the 2024-25 and every school year after, their school building must be ranked in the lowest 20% for at least two of the three most recent rankings.

STATE	Program Name	Student eligibility requirements: Primary requirements
	EdChoice Expansion Program	<p>Students with a household income below 250% of federal poverty guidelines.</p> <p>Reduced voucher amounts are also available for families under 400% of federal poverty guidelines.</p>
	Autism Scholarship Program	Students with autism who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
	Joh Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program	<p>Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP).</p> <p>Students attending a charter school are eligible to apply.</p>
	Cleveland Scholarship Program	<p>Students living in Cleveland.</p> <p>Priority is given to returning students and their siblings and students from families with a household income of less than 200% of the federal poverty level. Students receive a voucher to attend a private school or to purchase tutoring services while attending public school.</p>
Oklahoma	Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program	Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
Utah	Carson Smith Scholarship Program	Students with disabilities who are three years or older and have an Individualized education program (IEP).
Vermont	Town Tuitioning Program	<p>Students residing in a school district that does not maintain a public elementary or high school.</p> <p>Eligible students may attend another a public school in another school district or a private school.</p>
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	Students who live in Milwaukee with a household income up to 300% of the federal poverty level.
	Racine Parental Private School Choice Program	Students who live in Racine with a household income up to 300% of the federal poverty level.

STATE	Program Name	Student eligibility requirements: Primary requirements
	Wisconsin Parental Choice Program	Students who do not live in Milwaukee or Racine and have a household income up to 220% of federal poverty level.
	Wisconsin Special Needs Scholarship Program	Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).