



## What is Education Freedom?

Education freedom funds students, not systems. Unfortunately, school districts and unions hold all of the power in areas without education freedom, as the Covid-era school closures made abundantly clear.

Education freedom holds schools accountable by giving parents leverage. Parents deserve power over their children's education. Education freedom policies send a wake-up call to school districts: serve students well, or the students will leave.

Education freedom creates opportunity. Residency-based assignments to government schools restrict opportunity to a zip code. Those who are underserved by the education monopoly stand to gain the most from choice, but educational freedom can benefit all children.

## What's at Stake?

**Student Health and Happiness:** School choice benefits students who struggle in schools academically and socially by allowing them to have mobility and freedom in finding the right fit for them.

Education freedom empowers students with the opportunity to switch schools for a better education, specialized programs, or safer environments.

**Opportunity and Freedom:** [More than three-quarters](#) (76%) of parents surveyed in December 2023 support the creation of K-12 "education savings accounts" (ESAs), which provide parents with government-authorized savings accounts for educational purposes.

**Family Values:** When funding follows students, parents can select education providers that align with their family's values.

**Improvement of Incentives:** Education freedom introduces competition in the marketplace of schooling, which incentivizes public schools to improve.

Without competition, public schools can be comfortable remaining as they are, rather than seeking out ways to attract and retain students and families.

## Addressing Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p><b>Education freedom aims to further enrich already wealthy people, and does not help low-income families.</b></p>	<p>Education freedom primarily helps students from low- and middle-income backgrounds who could not otherwise afford to escape their government-assigned school. Even with a <a href="#">steadily growing</a> number of states offering education freedom programs for all K-12 students, most state programs prioritize lower-income families.</p>
<p><b>School choice does not help the students left behind in public schools.</b></p>	<p>The evidence shows that academic results in nearby public schools improved as a result of students having a choice of school. In fact, <a href="#">26 of 29 empirical studies</a> evaluating the competitive impact of school choice programs on public school academic performance have found a positive influence on public schools.</p>
<p><b>School choice students may be less tolerant of a variety of different viewpoints or identities as a result of attending private school.</b></p>	<p>Studies have shown that participation in school choice programs <a href="#">improves civic tolerance</a> and positively affects students' character. Students who have benefited from school choice are more likely to volunteer, vote, and participate in other civic activities.</p>