



SCHOOL CHOICE

- School choice programs:
 - Remove barriers, such as address and income, that prevent parents from choosing the education that best fits their child.
 - Encourage parents to become more engaged, involved, and invested in their child's education, which generally increases student achievement.
- Many studies have shown that school choice programs **do not** have a detrimental effect to the public schools in that area, and in the history of school choice programs, there has never been a mass exodus from the public schools when a widespread choice program was implemented.

New statewide polling shows that, when given the option to select “any kind of school for your child,” 60 percent of Iowans would select something other than a regular public school.*

WHAT IS AN EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT (ESA)?

- A state grant equal to a portion of the state per-pupil funding, for which EVERY Iowa student would be eligible regardless of income level;
- Students would utilize the grant for educational expenses such as private school tuition, textbooks, tutoring, and online learning; and
- In Iowa the ESA program would compliment the current STO program, and vice versa. Each program would work to meet needs for various school populations, and the combination would help meet all educational needs in Iowa.
 - STO grants are based the financial need of the family.
 - Under the ESA program, every family would receive the same amount of funding.

New statewide polling shows of those surveyed who send their children to public schools, but who would choose to use non-public options if they could, 60 percent said COST was the primary impediment to making that choice.*

BENEFITS OF A STRONG ESA PROGRAM

- Parents can choose the educational option that best fits their child's unique needs, regardless of income, location, cost, special needs, or other barriers currently preventing that choice.
- When children receive the education that best meets their needs, they are better equipped for success, resulting in a well-qualified Iowa work force.
- With ESAs, Iowans would have access to a variety of strong educational options, attracting new families to our state and keeping families here.
- ESAs would allow every Iowa student to become eligible for a grant equal to a portion of the state's per-pupil funding.
 - Local funding for the child using the ESA grant would remain with the public school district.
 - There is no intent or plan to reduce public education funding for an ESA program.
 - Estimated cost of the ESA program, including all current nonpublic students and a small percentage of transfer students from public schools, would be at most \$185 million.
 - Fraud protection built into the program

AN ESA IS NOT A “VOUCHER”

- While vouchers typically allow for one type of learning at a brick and mortar school, ESAs allow money to be used for a wider variety of approved education expenses such as private school tuition, textbooks, tutoring, and online learning.

New statewide polling shows a whopping 70 percent of Iowans indicated support for the creation of Education Savings Accounts that provide “all families with a grant of state funds to pay for approved educational expenses for school.” including “private school tuition, tutoring, therapies for special needs, or some combination...”*

*Iowa statewide polling conducted by Braun Research, Inc. (January 19-24, 2017; N=1200; +/-2.8% w/a 95% confidence level).