

TALKING TEXAS VOUCHERS PODCAST FUNDING AND STATISTICS

SEASON 1 EPISODE 2



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UNDERSTANDING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, NUMBER OF STUDENTS IMPACTED AND GENERAL STATISTICS AROUND EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (VOUCHERS) (DEPENDING ON THE FUTURE LEGISLATION)

- THE DRAFT FUNDING BILL – SB1 RELEASED JAN 7, 2025
- DRAFT BILL – SB2 RELEASED JAN 24 AND PASSED FEB 5 2025 (link available at <https://TalkingTexasVouchers.com>)
- STATISTICS
 - NUMBER OF CHILDREN AFFECTED
 - COSTS VERSUS FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
 - IMPACT
 - SENATE FLOOR PASSED ON FEB 5, 2025 WITH AMENDMENTS

NEW TEXAS BUDGET – SB1 DRAFT

- RELEASED JAN 7 2025 - LEGISLATIVE SESSION 89R - HUFFMAN – DRAFT
- LINK TO DRAFT BILL AT [HTTPS://TALKINGTEXASVOUCHERS.COM](https://talkingtexasvouchers.com) CLICK ON THE LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE BOX ON HOME PAGE
- PAGE III-39 PARAGRAPH 78 (PAGE IN PDF – 309)
- \$1 BILLION FOR EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
- “Contingency for Education Savings Account. Included in amounts appropriated above and elsewhere in this Act and contingent on enactment of legislation relating to the establishment of an education savings account, by the Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, is \$1,000,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2027 to implement the provisions of the legislation. An amount to be determined by the Legislative Budget Board shall be transferred to the Comptroller of Public Accounts - Fiscal Programs to implement the provisions of the legislation. “

NEW TEXAS BUDGET – SB2 DRAFT

- RELEASED JAN 24 - LEGISLATIVE SESSION 89R – CREIGHTON AND OTHERS– DRAFT, AMENDMENTS OFFERED FEB 5, 2025 IN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- LINK TO DRAFT BILL AT [HTTPS://TALKINGTEXASVOUCHERS.COM](https://talkingtexasvouchers.com) CLICK ON THE LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE BOX ON HOME PAGE
- ESTABLISHES THE ESA PROGRAM
- AMENDMENTS PRESENTED FEB 5, 2025 ON THE TEXAS SENATE FLOOR PASSING/OPPOSING (IN SUPPORT OF CREIGHTON'S POSITION) ALONG PARTY LINES - 20 TO 11 FURTHER SHOWING THE LIKELIHOOD OF PASSING
- ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS PASSED BLOCKED ONLINE/VIRTUAL SCHOOLS FROM RECEIVING ESA FUNDS. ONLINE/VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE STILL AVAILABLE TUITION-FREE AS CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE STATE BUT THESE CHARTER SCHOOLS DO REGULATIONS (SUCH AS ATTENDANCE) SIMILAR TO PUBLIC SCHOOL

INCREASE TO TEACHER COMPENSATION

- SB1 ALSO PROPOSED IS TEACHER COMPENSATION INCREASES IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH
- “Increased Teacher Compensation. Included in amounts appropriated above and contingent on enactment of legislation relating to the compensation of public school educators and the Teacher Incentive Allotment, by the Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, is
 - (a) \$750,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund for the 2026-27 biennium for changes related to the Teacher Incentive Allotment; and
 - (b) \$4,100,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund for the 2026-27 biennium for changes related the compensation of public school educators to implement the provisions of the legislation.”

So Teachers will be seeing **\$4.85B** in additional funding in SB1

FOUNDATIONAL STATISTICS

- TYPICAL OVERHEAD TO ADMINISTER A PROGRAM IS 10%+
 - SO FOR ANALYSIS WE WILL BE CONSERVATIVE AND USE 5% (3% SEEMS TO BE THE CAP IN SB2)
- SO ESTIMATE \$950M WILL GO TO FAMILIES
- TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TEXAS
 - 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS 5,531,236
 - SOURCE: [HTTPS://TEA.TEXAS.GOV/REPORTS-AND-DATA/SCHOOL-PERFORMANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY-RESEARCH/ENROLL-2023-24.PDF](https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/school-performance/accountability-research/enroll-2023-24.pdf)
- AVERAGE SPEND IN TEXAS PER STUDENT PROJECTED TO BE \$13,039 FOR 2025
 - SOURCE - TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY - [HTTPS://TEA.TEXAS.GOV/ABOUT-TEA/GOVERNMENT-RELATIONS-AND-LEGAL/GOVERNMENT-RELATIONS/PUBLIC-EDUCATION-STATE-FUNDING-TRANSPARENCY-MAY-2024.PDF](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/government-relations-and-legal/government-relations/public-education-state-funding-transparency-may-2024.pdf)
- TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR WAS OVER \$92.4B EQUATING TO \$16,792 PER STUDENT
 - SOURCE - TEXASPOLICY.COM - [HTTPS://WWW.TEXASPOLICY.COM/THE-TRUTH-ON-SCHOOL-SPENDING/](https://www.texaspolicy.com/the-truth-on-school-spending/)
- DRAFT LEGISLATIONS IN TEXAS SENATE IS DISCUSSED AROUND \$10K TO FAMILIES

DOING THE MATH – NUMBER OF AFFECTED STUDENTS

- \$950,000,000 TO BE SPENT ON EDUCATION VOUCHERS
- CURRENT DRAFTS OF IMPLEMENTATION LEGISLATION OF 2 BILLS WILL ALLOCATE (LINKS AT TALKINGTEXASVOUCHERS.COM)
 - 90% TO THE PARENTS THAT IS NORMALLY SPENT BY THE DISTRICT
 - 10% TO THE DISTRICT
- SENATE SB2, RELEASED 24 JAN POINTS TO 10,000 PER CHILD OR 11,500 FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
- IF AVERAGE IS \$10,000 SPENT ON AVERAGE PER STUDENT,
 $\$950,000,000 / \$10,000 = 95,000$ STUDENTS TO RECEIVE EDUCATION SPENDING ACCOUNTS (MOST OF THE PRESS AND LEGISLATION ESTIMATES THIS AT 100,000)
- CURRENT DRAFTS OF LEGISLATION STATE THAT A CHILD TO RECEIVE ESA THEY HAVE TO BE ENROLLED IN PUBLIC (OR CHARTER) SCHOOL DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
 - *THIS MEANS STUDENTS IN PRIVATE SCHOOL NOW MIGHT NOT QUALIFY. MORE TO COME IN THE NEXT EPISODES*

DOING THE MATH – PERCENTAGE OF ALL PUBLIC STUDENTS

- PERCENT OF EFFECTED PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
 - $100,000 \text{ STUDENTS THAT CAN MOVE TO PRIVATE} / 5,531,236 \text{ STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED} = 1.8\%$
- AS OF THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR, TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING DROPOUT RATES:
 - ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE (GRADES 7-12): 1.6%
 - ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE (GRADES 9-12): 2.0%
 - FOUR-YEAR LONGITUDINAL DROPOUT RATE (CLASS OF 2023): 6.3%
 - SOURCE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY - [HTTPS://TEA.TEXAS.GOV/REPORTS-AND-DATA/SCHOOL-PERFORMANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY-RESEARCH/COMP-ANNUAL-BIENNIAL-2024.PDF](https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/school-performance/accountability-research/comp-annual-biennial-2024.pdf)

CURRENT CHARTER, PRIVATE, AND HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TX

- IN 2023-2024 – 488,659 STUDENTS IN CHARTER SCHOOL – 8%
 - SOURCE – TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY - [HTTPS://TEA.TEXAS.GOV/REPORTS-AND-DATA/SCHOOL-PERFORMANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY-RESEARCH/ENROLL-2023-24.PDF](https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/school-performance/accountability-research/enroll-2023-24.pdf)
- IN 2021 – 347,430 K-12 STUDENTS IN PRIVATE SCHOOL
 - SOURCE – NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS - [HTTPS://NCES.ED.GOV/PROGRAMS/DIGEST-DASHBOARD/STATE/TEXAS](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest-dashboard/state/texas)
 - REPRESENTS 5.4% OF THE POPULATION OF BOTH PUBLIC/CHARTER AND PRIVATE STUDENTS
- HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 500K-620K
 - REPRESENTS 8-10% OF K-12 STUDENTS ARE HOMESCHOOLED IN TEXAS
 - SOURCE – TEXAS HOME SCHOOL COALITION - [HTTPS://THSC.ORG/HOMESCHOOLING-FACTS/](https://thsc.org/homeschooling-facts/)

COMPARING PUBLIC/CHARTER TO PRIVATE/HOMESCHOOL

	Public	Charter	Accredited Private	Homeschool/ MicroSchool
Current	78%	8%	6%	8%
Public vs Non- Public	86%		14%	
Effects from ESA*	84%		16%	

- According to both draft House bills, only students enrolled in Public School during the previous year, as well as students with disabilities or disadvantaged will be eligible for ESAs. ***Students in Private school already and beyond first grade might not be eligible.***

Eligibility Sections

See H.B. No 1657 – Sec 29.353

See H.B No 612 – Sec 29.356

See S.B 2 – Sec 29.355

TYPES OF SCHOOLS STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND ON ESA

Public	Charter	Accredited Private	Accredited MicroSchools	Home School
No Funds	No Funds	Funds in an account not directly accessible parents*	Funds in an account that can be possibly be a homeschool level at \$2,000	Funds in an account not directly accessible parents*

TYPES OF SCHOOLS – POSSIBLE VOUCHER USAGE

Type	Public	Charter	Accredited Private	Accredited Micro-School	Home School
TRADITIONAL	None	None	Yes	Possibly Yes	Possibly Yes
ONLINE	None	None	No – in SB2 as Am mended	Possibly Yes	Possibly Yes
ONLINE LEARNING CENTER SUPPORT (as a tutoring environment)	None	None	None for SB2 – only onsite school is approved for 10K ESA	Possibly - Yes under Home School \$2,000 limit	Possibly Yes drafts limit this to 2,000

Funding Legend	
Free	
Cost	

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEFINITION: SCHOOLS FUNDED AND OPERATED BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

- FUNDING SOURCES:
 - LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES
 - STATE FUNDING
 - FEDERAL FUNDING
- KEY FEATURES:
 - FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS WITHIN DESIGNATED DISTRICTS.
 - GOVERNED BY SCHOOL BOARDS AND STATE REGULATIONS.
 - BROAD CURRICULUM DESIGNED TO MEET STATE STANDARDS.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

- DEFINITION: PUBLICLY FUNDED BUT INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED SCHOOLS.
- FUNDING SOURCES:
 - STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING (PER-PUPIL ALLOCATION).
 - GRANTS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS.
- KEY FEATURES:
 - OPERATE UNDER A CHARTER OR CONTRACT WITH A STATE OR LOCAL BOARD.
 - GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT.
 - ACCOUNTABILITY FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCE.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

DEFINITION: SCHOOLS FUNDED AND MANAGED INDEPENDENTLY OF GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

- FUNDING SOURCES:
 - TUITION FEES PAID BY FAMILIES.
 - ENDOWMENTS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS.
 - FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND GRANTS.
- KEY FEATURES:
 - WIDE VARIETY OF CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPTIONS.
 - OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH RELIGIOUS OR PHILOSOPHICAL BELIEFS.
 - SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS PROCESS.

HOMESCHOOLS

- DEFINITION: EDUCATION LED BY PARENTS OR TUTORS AT HOME.
- FUNDING SOURCES:
 - FAMILY-FUNDED (MATERIALS, CURRICULUM, AND RESOURCES).
 - SOME STATES OFFER TAX CREDITS OR STIPENDS.
- KEY FEATURES:
 - HIGHLY PERSONALIZED LEARNING EXPERIENCE.
 - FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE AND CURRICULUM.
 - STRONG PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.

MICRO-SCHOOLS

DEFINITION: SMALL, COMMUNITY-BASED SCHOOLS OFFERING PERSONALIZED EDUCATION.

- FUNDING SOURCES:
 - TUITION FEES PAID BY FAMILIES.
 - GRANTS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS.
- KEY FEATURES:
 - LOW STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIOS.
 - FLEXIBILITY IN CURRICULUM AND LEARNING PACE.
 - OFTEN OPERATE IN UNCONVENTIONAL SETTINGS.

THANK YOU

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Podcast: Spotify and Apple Podcasts

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