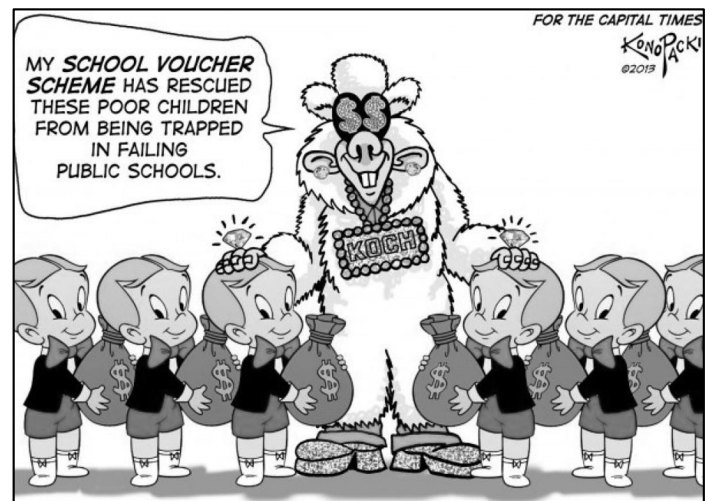


10 Shocking Facts about School Choice and Education Funding in Indiana



- 1 Our tax dollars pay for students to attend private schools in Indiana.
- 2 Hoosiers never voted for school choice.
- 3 When choice was created and expanded by state legislators, no additional funds were added to help pay for more schools.
- 4 To make matters worse, since the Great Recession, school funding from the state has not kept up with the rate of inflation.
- 5 To make up for less funding from the state, many public-school districts take out loans and have tax levies via referenda to help pay for day-to-day operations.
- 6 Almost all private schools receiving vouchers in Indiana are religious.
- 7 Recently, two Indiana virtual charter schools defrauded the state of over \$86 million. The \$86 million has never been paid back to the state educational fund.
- 8 Our tax dollars are being used to perpetuate segregation in schools.
- 9 Teachers in charter and private schools do not have to comply with the same Indiana education licensure standards to teach as public-school teachers.
- 10 There are now four different types of vouchers in Indiana. The original voucher – Indiana Choice Scholarship – is near universal with a family of four earning \$231k a year qualifying for a voucher.



To learn more: go to KeepEducationPublic.org/facts

10 Reasons Why Public Schools Are the Best Choice



- 1 Public schools are the heart of the community.** They do so much more than just teach students. Football, basketball, musicals, emergency shelter, community events, and traditions all happen at your local public schools.
- 2 Public schools are a community investment.** Strong public schools are the backbone of a community, preparing students year after year to become good citizens who make positive contributions. Businesses and people seek to settle in communities with strong public schools.
- 3 Public schools have more educational choice.** Almost 90 percent of students in Indiana attend public schools. And most districts are larger than any private or charter school. Size allows them to offer a broad array of academic and extracurricular choices.
- 4 Public schools are accountable to the public.** The majority are represented by a publicly elected school board.
- 5 Public schools are dependable.** They can't close at a moment's notice unlike charters and private schools.
- 6 Public schools are diverse.** They must accept all students and legally are not allowed to discriminate. There are over 290 languages spoken by students in Indiana's public schools.
- 7 Public teachers are highly qualified educators.** They must be certified by the state and continue their certification and advanced degrees throughout their career.
- 8 Transportation is free.** Public schools offer free transportation to get your child to the school they are attending.
- 9 Free and reduced lunch.** Almost 50% of all Hoosier students receive free and reduced lunch in public schools. Not all charter and private schools provide a free/reduced lunch for kids who qualify.
- 10 Best value for your money.** Public schools are funded using state, federal, and local funds. Funds are pooled and distributed to serve all students in the school—from gifted and talented to special education, from gym and art to music and library, from therapists and reading specialists to nurses and custodians.

Terms

Charter School: A school that operates on a contract and is authorized by an entity such as a mayor's office or university. The authorizer need not be local. A charter school receives state funding but operates independently of the local public school district. As of 2024, charter schools can receive local property tax dollars in 4 counties—Lake, Marion, Vanderburgh and St. Joseph—even though charter school boards are private.

Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs): A taxpayer-funded voucher account for parents who withdraw their child from public school. Currently only available for special education students and their siblings.

Homeschool: Education provided at home by a caregiver using private funds.

Private School: A school founded, conducted, and maintained by a private group rather than by the government. There are accredited and non-

accredited private schools in Indiana. Accredited private schools can accept vouchers.

Public School: Community schools that must, by law, accept all students in their geographic boundaries. In Indiana, they are publicly funded using a combination of state, federal, and local tax dollars. They are governed by their local community most often via an elected school board.

Tax Credit Scholarship: Private voucher funding that helps a student attend a private school. It is collected via nonprofit scholarship granting organizations (SGOs). Indiana offers tax credits to donors allowing them to claim 50% in their tax returns. Some of the largest SGOs in Indiana are religious organizations.

Voucher: A private or government subsidy for students to attend an accredited private school. In Indiana the largest voucher is called Indiana Choice Scholarships; the majority of which are used to attend religious schools.

