* School Choice Polling and Statistics
  + Only 28% of Americans believe education is headed in the right direction, a 14-point decline since 2021 (conducted April 2024 – EdChoice “Schooling in America Survey”)
  + About two-thirds of **Americans** support school vouchers, charter schools, and tax-credit scholarships. Support for ESAs comes in even higher at 76%. (conducted April 2024 – EdChoice “Schooling in America Survey”)
  + These numbers go up when specially polling **parents** (conducted April 2024 – EdChoice “Schooling in America Survey”)
    - 72% Support Charter Schools
    - 78% Support Vouchers
    - 79% Support Tax-Credit Scholarships
    - 84% Support ESAs
  + Demographic Support for ESAs (conducted April 2024 – EdChoice “Schooling in America Survey”)

# Republicans 73%

* + - White 73%

# Democrats 77%

* + - Black 78%
    - Hispanic 83%
  + Students in choice programs comprise only 2.4% of publicly funded K-12 students.
  + Public spending on choice programs represents just 1% of total public spending on public K-12.
  + Choice programs receive 64% less money than public schools ($6,112 vs $17,011 per pupil)
  + School choice programs comprise just 0.3% of total state expenditures.
* Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and Arizona Myths
  + Defined as: Publicly funded, government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes.
  + 17 States have some form of an ESA program. They are: **Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.**
  + **Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, West Virginia** are considered truly universal: universal eligibility (all K-12 students can apply), universal funding (consistent and sustainable funding formula, not annual appropriation), and universal usage (broad coverage of education services and products, not just tuition).
  + As reported in Arizona January 2024, “state funding for education, including ESAs, has multi-million-dollar surplus”. The K-12 surplus was $28,000,000.
  + Arizona school districts have 200 more schools, 200,000 more students, and 4X the revenue they had in 1993.
  + Arizona year 2 data shows 61.5% of ESA participating students came from public schools. Choice programs are not supporting only existing private school participants.
  + Arizona improper payment rate approximately 1% with other government programs like Unemployment Insurance (over 20%), Medicaid (approx.15%), and SNAP (over 10%) improper payments all much higher.
  + When choice programs expand funding and eligibility, studies show improved learning, lower absenteeism, and lower suspension rates for students who remain in public schools.

(“Effects of Maturing Private School Choice Programs on Public School Students”, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy 2023)

* COVID-era (2020-2023) Data on Enrollment and Staffing
  + Student Enrollment went down while staffing went up.
  + Alaska added 202 staff members but had a decline in enrollment of 1,271 students.
  + Alaska Public Schools could have saved $38.4 million if staffing changed at the same rate as enrollment.
  + Nationwide US Public Schools could have saved $20.3 Billion if staffing and enrollment changes were aligned. 95,654 staff were added while seeing a 931,460 student decline.