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# N-SSBA CALLS ON NYS TO NOT OPT-IN TO THE FEDERAL SCHOOL CHOICE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association (N-SSBA), representing the elected boards of education that govern public school districts across Nassau and Suffolk Counties, opposes Federal School Choice Tax Credit program contained in H.R. 1 that was passed in June 2025.

Public education is the cornerstone of our democracy and serves more than 90 percent of students in New York State. Public schools are accountable to taxpayers, governed by locally elected boards of education, and required to educate all students regardless of ability, disability, income, language proficiency, religion, or background. This program would divert public resources away from these community-based institutions and redirect them to private educational entities that are not subject to the same transparency, accountability, and nondiscrimination requirements.

N-SSBA has several significant concerns regarding this program:

**Diversion of Public Resources**
It would reduce the resources available to public schools by subsidizing private school tuition through federal tax incentives. At a time when public schools face increasing demands related to student mental health, academic recovery, special education services, school safety, and workforce preparation, federal policy should strengthen—not weaken—investments in public education.

**Lack of Public Accountability**
Private schools receiving students through voucher programs are generally not required to meet the same standards for financial transparency, public oversight, state assessments, open meetings, public records, or accountability for student outcomes that apply to public schools. Taxpayer-supported educational programs should be subject to consistent accountability measures.

**Equity Concerns**
Many private schools maintain admissions requirements, tuition levels, transportation limitations, and enrollment practices that can restrict access for students with disabilities, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged families. Public schools remain responsible for serving all students, regardless of need.

**Threat to Local Control**
The Federal School Choice Tax Credit program framework undermines the principle of local control that has long guided public education. Local boards of education are elected by their communities and are accountable for educational outcomes, fiscal stewardship, and policy decisions. Federal policies should support, rather than circumvent, local governance structures.

**Insufficient Evidence of System-Wide Improvement**
Research on voucher programs has produced mixed results, with many studies showing limited or no consistent

academic gains. Rather than creating parallel systems of publicly subsidized education, federal policymakers should prioritize proven strategies that strengthen public schools and expand opportunities for all students.

## N-SSBA Position

The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association urges Governor Hochul to NOT opt-in for the Federal School Choice Tax Credit Program.