

Educational Choice for Children Act

Proposed in the U.S. Congress

Generates privately funded scholarships for children in K-12 education

The *Educational Choice for Children Act* (ECCA), would generate private charitable donations to fund scholarships for use in K-12 education. As many as two million students across all 50 states would benefit. *The ECCA will be reintroduced in the House of Representatives and Senate with new bill numbers in early 2025.*

During the previous session of Congress, the House ECCA bill was passed by the Committee on Ways and Means in September 2024, which amended the original ECCA that had more than 150 House <u>cosponsors</u> and more than 30 Senate <u>cosponsors</u>. This is the most congressional support ever for a bill to enact parental choice in education, including from the Republican congressional leadership. President-elect Donald Trump also has <u>voiced</u> his support. Specific features of the ECCA include the following:

- Tax provision. A non-refundable 100 percent federal income tax credit would generate up to as much as \$10 billion in annual donations to not-for-profit scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), which would financially enable parents to pay tuition to enroll their children in the best, most suitable school available or pay expenses to access education services for their children, akin to a 529 plan. There is no role for the U.S. Department of Education and no new federal spending or government mandates on states, school districts, private schools (including faith-based), or families.
- <u>Eligible students</u>. Students in grades K through 12 from both low-income and middle-class households in every state are eligible for a scholarship for every school setting, including homeschool; i.e., children in households with incomes up to 300 percent of the median gross income level by region as <u>determined</u> by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.
- <u>Protects religious liberty and school autonomy</u>. Prohibits governmental control or encroachment over SGOs that receive tax-credited contributions, schools that enroll scholarship recipients, or parents who instruct their children at home. The ECCA use of private donations, not public funds, further protects against government infringement of religious liberty or operational autonomy, pursuant to U.S. Supreme Court <u>case law</u>.
- <u>Coalition Support</u>. There are more than 150 national and state-based organizations and influencers that have endorsed the ECCA, listed <u>here</u>.

For more information about the *Educational Choice for Children Act* and how your organization can help make this a reality, please contact Peter Murphy at pmurphy@investineducation.org.