

March 27, 2019

Word Count: 235

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QuickPoint! – Free to Choose with Freedom Scholarships

By Miranda Bonifield

School choice [made a splash in the headlines](#) last month with the proposal of the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act. The proposed legislation would create a federal income tax credit for donations to organizations which grant scholarships to school-aged children and create an efficient path forward for students in states which have yet to embrace educational choice.

Tax credit scholarship programs have already successfully assisted thousands of students [in states like Florida](#), where 92% of families enrolled report satisfaction. 71% of the 108,000 students would otherwise be in a public school. But because of their option to choose, they are statistically more likely to attend a school which parents feel is positively shaping their character and to attend college after graduation. Tax credit scholarships have been encouragingly successful on the state level. [Encouraging donations to scholarship-granting nonprofit organizations](#), while leaving states the flexibility to opt in or out of the program, is an optimal way to encourage school choice without federal overreach.

Closer to home, [Senate Bill 668](#) is currently in the Oregon Senate Committee on Education. The bill would create [Education Savings Accounts](#) for Oregon students. ESAs direct a portion of the funds designated for a child's education in a public school to an account which could fund the family's choice of private, online, or homeschool options.

If implemented, both the federal and the state proposals would be real victories for American students.

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