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QuickPoint! - Local Celebrations Highlight All the Ways Oregon Students Learn

By Kathryn Hickok

January 21-27 is <u>National School Choice Week</u>, the world's largest annual celebration of parental choice and effective education options for all children. In 2024, <u>183</u> <u>Oregon schools and organizations</u> will participate in National School Choice Week to raise awareness about K-12 education in our state.

The landscape of <u>options for Oregon students</u> includes district public schools, public charter schools, private and parochial schools, homeschooling, magnet schools, online learning, and <u>microschools</u>. Different learning environments meet the needs of unique students in the ways they learn best.

Empowering parents to choose among all options unlocks the potential of each child. Last year, <u>seventeen states</u> enacted or expanded school choice programs. <u>Approximately 20 million American children</u>—about 36% of students—are now eligible to participate in a private choice program.

As part of National School Choice Week, Education Freedom for Oregon and the National School Choice Awareness Foundation will host a <u>school fair at the Salem Convention Center</u> on Saturday, January 20th. This free event will showcase Oregon schools representing a range of education options. Attendees can meet educators and get questions answered to help make informed choices for their families.

For more information about this fun, family-friendly event, visit https://schoolchoiceweek.com/events/salem-school-fair-2024/.

Kathryn Hickok is Executive Vice President at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free market public policy research organization, and Director of Cascade's Children's Scholarship Fund-Oregon program.

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