

## QuickPoint! New York Says “Yes” to Scholarships. Oregon Should Too.

By Kathryn Hickok

New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced her intent to [opt the Empire State into the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit](#) (FSTC). This makes Gov. Hochul the 30<sup>th</sup> governor—and the second Democrat, after Colorado Governor Jared Polis—to signal their intent to participate.

The [Federal Scholarship Tax Credit](#) is the first-ever federal legislation to promote school choice for K-12 children nationwide. Starting next year, individuals can take up to \$1,700 as a federal tax credit for cash contributions to qualified scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) in participating states.

The [U.S. Treasury and the U.S. Department of Education](#) estimate the FSTC will “generate an additional \$24 billion in education funding annually. Every \$1 billion in scholarships could fund tuition at a school of choice for 77,000 students or tutoring for more than 300,000 students.”

FSTC donations will greatly expand educational opportunities nationwide, but children only benefit if their governors opt in and provide the Treasury Department with a list of SGOs in their states that meet federal guidelines.

Gov. Tina Kotek’s office first said she would not opt Oregon into the FSTC, but *Education Week* recently reported that she “has not determined” whether the state will participate and will await final regulations from the U.S. Treasury Department before deciding.”

Regardless of Gov. Kotek’s decision, Oregonians will still be able to claim the tax credit in 2027—but only by donating to scholarship nonprofits in opt-in states. If Oregon stays out, those dollars will help children elsewhere, not here.

Governors Hochul and Polis didn’t want that to happen to New York or Colorado. Gov. Kotek should not let it happen to Oregon, either.

*If you, your school, or your organization wants to help advocate for Oregon to opt into the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit, [visit the FundEdu website here](#).*

*To learn more about how you may benefit from the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit in 2027, please consult your tax advisor. Information about the FSTC is available on the [website of the Internal Revenue Service](#).*

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