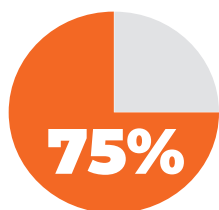


# NC SCHOOL CHOICE: BY THE NUMBERS

North Carolina achieved several important school choice victories in 2023. Expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the creation of the Charter School Review Board, and the passage of the Parents' Bill of Rights all underscore the importance of parents in directing the education and upbringing of their children. It's time to celebrate the progress North Carolina has made on expanding school choice. The following numbers help to tell part of the story of school choice in North Carolina.



74.9% of respondents said that **a child's parents or guardians are best suited to determine where the child should attend school** (May 2023 Carolina Journal Poll, formerly Civitas Poll)

## 11<sup>th</sup>

**North Carolina's ranking among the states**, according to the Center for Education Reform's 2022 Parent Power Index of access to choice programs.

## 86%

Percentage increase in charter, private, and home school enrollment across North Carolina from 2012 to 2022.



# 22%

of all K-12 students are enrolled in charter, private, or home schools in N.C.

# 32,170

**Number of Opportunity Scholarship recipients as of December 2023.**

# 77,000

Number of students reported to be on waitlists for charter school admission in 2022.



# 152,717

Estimated number of home school students during the 2022-23 school year



**2015** The year the N.C. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Opportunity Scholarships.

In *Hart v. State*, the court ruled that the legislature could fund alternative educational opportunities outside the public school system without conflicting with its constitutional responsibilities.

# 206

Number of Charter Schools operating in North Carolina. Charters enrolled 135,972 students during the 2021-22 school year.

## 2

**Number of private school choice programs in North Carolina** (Opportunity Scholarship Program and Education Student Accounts (ESA+) Program).

## 2

**Percent decrease** in North Carolina K-12 public school enrollment from 2012 to 2022.

## 13

**Number of states**, including North Carolina, that offer Education Savings Account (ESA) programs.

# 411,811

**Number of students enrolled in charter, private, and home schools in the 2021-22 school year.**



# 126,768

**Number of students enrolled in North Carolina's 884 private schools in 2022-23.**

# \$11,498

**The average ESA+ award in 2022-23.**

# 587

**Number of participating nonpublic schools with Opportunity Scholarship recipients enrolled in 2023-24.**



# 196%

**Percentage increase in K-12 charter school enrollment** from 2012-2022 in North Carolina.

# 94,154

**Estimated number of home schools** across North Carolina during the 2022-23 school year.



# \$3,526

**Expected average savings per student to the state for those who utilized an Opportunity Scholarship.** In 2021-22, the average per-pupil cost to the state to educate a student in the public school was \$7,426, and the average Opportunity Scholarship was \$3,900.