

How Utah's Parent Choice Scholarship Program Works:

Eligible Children

- All children currently enrolled in public school
- All children in low-income families
- All children newly entering Kindergarten
- All children new to Utah

Scholarship Amounts

1. The scholarship amount is scaled based on household size and income (See table at right).
2. The highest scholarship amount (for lowest income families) is \$3,000 and the lowest scholarship amount is \$500.

Accountability Provisions

Participating private schools must:

- Give a nationally norm-referenced test (like the SAT or IOWA Basic Skills Test) to every student every year. (Public schools do this only in third, fifth, and eighth grades.) Report individual results to parents and school-wide results to the public.
- Employ teachers with a bachelor's or higher degree, or who have special skills or experience in the subject they are teaching, and who complete a criminal background check.
- Disclose the credentials of their teachers and the school's accreditation status.
- Go through a financial review to determine that the school is financially stable, and that scholarship funds are tracked separately from other tuition and used only for classroom instruction.
- Schools that operate in a residence, have fewer than 40 students, are a residential treatment facility licensed by the state, or encourage illegal conduct are NOT eligible to participate in the scholarship program.

Logistics

- Parents submit an application to the state office of education, verifying household size and income. (In most cases, household income is the total adjusted gross income reported by a household on their most recent federal or state income tax return).
- The student is awarded the scholarship.
- Scholarship payments are made in four equal payments during the school year. The checks are sent to the private school where the parent must restrictively endorse it to the school for tuition payment.

Sample of Scholarship Amounts for a Family of 5

Based on 2006-07 Reduced Lunch (RL) Income Guidelines

Household income	Maximum per child Scholarship
\$43,290	\$3,000
\$54,113	\$2,750
\$64,935	\$2,500
\$75,758	\$2,250
\$86,580	\$2,000
\$97,403	\$1,750
\$108,225	\$1,000
\$119,048 and up	\$500

Financial Provisions – Direct Financial Benefits to Public Education

1. Scholarship is funded from the General Fund not the Education Fund or Uniform School Fund.
2. The public school district or charter school that loses the scholarship student will keep students' enrollment "for funding purposes" for five years. In other words, schools are funded for students that are no longer attending, which is then used to increase funding for the students that remain.

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