

EdChoice voucher funding increased by 76.7% in the State Budget (HB33)

The expanded eligibility for private school vouchers and the increase in voucher amount will require \$826 million in state funds over the next two fiscal years. The ubiquitous voucher eligibility scheme, along with an increase in voucher dollar amount to \$8407 for high school students and \$6165 for K-8 students, will extract a boatload of money traditionally reserved for public school students. Students with family incomes greater than 450% of the federal poverty level will receive a sliding-scale reduction in the amount of voucher money. (This limitation will be erased within a few months.)

Every private school voucher student will be receiving a tax subsidy. Taxpayers will be paying for religious instruction since an overwhelming majority of private schools are connected with a religious institution. Government has the responsibility to protect the right of individuals to practice their religion but has no responsibility to financially support any religious institution.