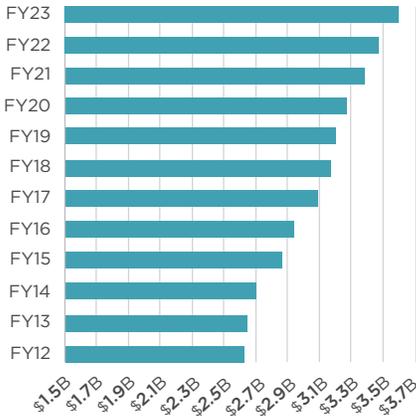
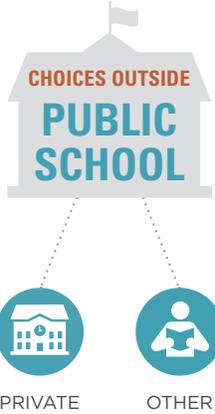




Public education funding in Iowa has **GROWN \$1.12B** since FY12.

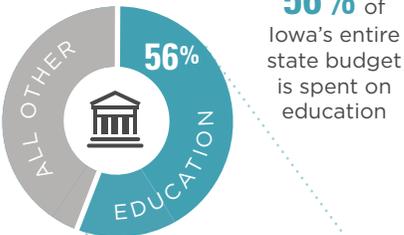


### WHAT are Students First Scholarships?



- Students First Scholarships **empower families** to choose the best education for their children.
- Eligible students who withdraw from public school will receive a portion of their **“per pupil” funds** to help cover qualifying expenses like private school tuition or other education services and materials.
- Per pupil funding is the **state’s investment in each individual student**. Funds are allocated annually to cover the educational costs of each student enrolled in a public school district.
- Funds will be deposited into an **educational savings account (ESA)** each year until a student graduates from high school. Remaining funds can be used until a student is 23. The account balance then reverts to the state general fund.

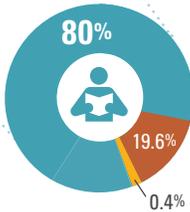
#### STATE BUDGET:



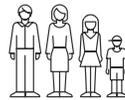
**56%** of Iowa's entire state budget is spent on education

#### EDUCATION BUDGET:

- PreK - 12
- Higher Education
- Other Education



### WHO is eligible?



#### 400% FPL

For example, family of four with a total income of **\$106,000 or less**.

#### IEP Students

Any student with an individualized educational plan (IEP).



- Nearly **500,000** K-12 students in Iowa
- Maximum of **10,000 scholarships** during the first year of implementation and divided equally among the two eligibility groups.

#### PreK-12 Budget Growth:

↑ **\$407 M**

Since FY 18 under Gov. Reynolds and a Republican-controlled Legislature

↑ **\$967 M**

Since FY 12 under Republican leadership

### HOW are “per pupil” funds allocated?



**\$5,359** follows each eligible student who withdraws from a public school until graduation.



**\$2,270** remains with the state to be reallocated to smaller, often rural, school districts.



**\$1,458** retained in local tax dollars at respective public schools of each scholarship student.

## Transparency in Education

Throughout the pandemic, parents had more visibility than ever before into their children's school experience, sparking a national movement for transparency in education. While Iowa's public schools are required to annually assure to the Iowa Department of Education that they are teaching to the Iowa Academic Standards, they are not currently required to post specific information such as course syllabuses and class materials publicly where it can be reviewed by the families they serve.

### Parent Engagement & School Transparency

- Public schools will be required to publish their class materials on school and/or district websites where parents and families can review it. Information shall include course syllabuses or written summaries, state academic standards, and titles of or links to textbooks and materials used for classes.
- Public schools will also be required to publish a comprehensive list of books available in their libraries and provide information about the process for filing a concern about a book.
- If the concern is not addressed by the school district within 30 days, it can be appealed directly to the State Board of Education
- State funding will be withheld from schools that do not comply with these requirements.

### Fostering Citizenship Among all Students

- High school students will be required to pass the civics section of the United States Naturalization Test to graduate from high school. The exam tests knowledge of U.S. history and government.
- Students must score at least 70% to pass the test and can take it more than once to satisfy the graduation requirement.

## KNOW THE FACTS

**False:** *School choice will only further reduce funding to Iowa's public schools.*



**FACT:** School choice does not put additional strain on school budgets.

When a student withdraws from their public school to attend the school of their choice using a Students First Scholarship, **their public school will actually keep the portion of per pupil funding generated by local and federal taxes** — even though that student is no longer being educated there. However, when a student's family moves out of the district, the school loses the entire amount of funding for that student. Students move into and out of school districts regularly and budgets are adjusted accordingly.

**False:** *School choice is discriminatory and segregates students.*



**FACT:** School choice provides educational opportunity for all children, regardless of race, income or zip code.

School district boundaries have kept low-income families in low-performing schools for too long. Students First Scholarships offer low and middle-income students in any school district a different path if they want it. And for students who choose to stay in their public school, research shows that school choice can motivate lower-performing schools to make improvements that boost performance and help retain the students and families they serve.

**False:** *Private schools aren't held to the same standards as public schools.*



**FACT:** In Iowa, both public and private schools are held to the same standards.

Public and private schools in the state of Iowa are accountable to the Iowa State Board of Education and Iowa Code. In order to be approved by the Iowa Department of Education, private schools must meet or exceed the minimum standards required of public schools.

