



## The Future of School Choice

*Education Commission of the States  
National Forum on Education Policy*

July 2019

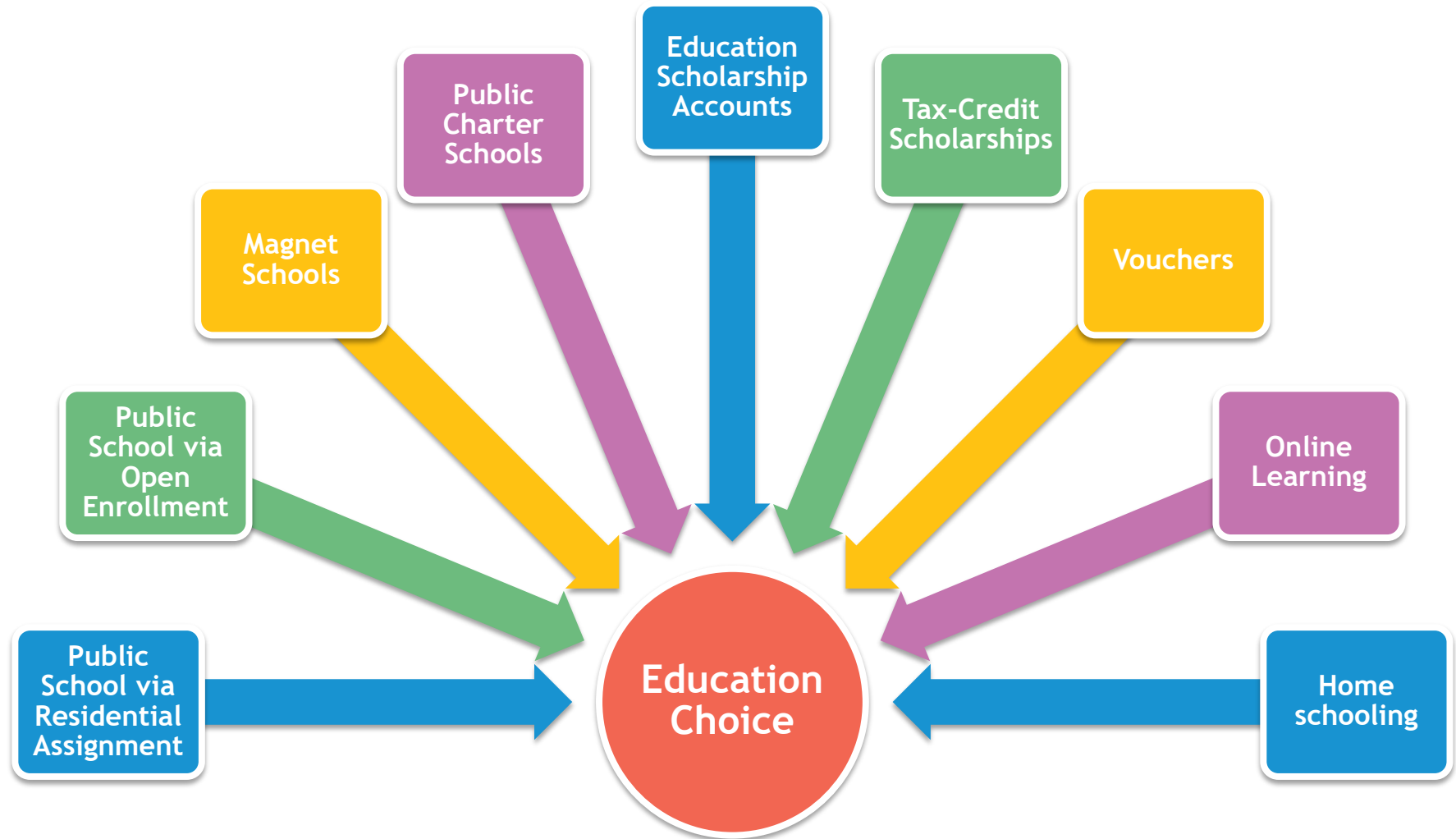


# What is Education Choice?



Every child deserves access to a quality education that provides the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to prepare them for a successful career and fulfilling life.

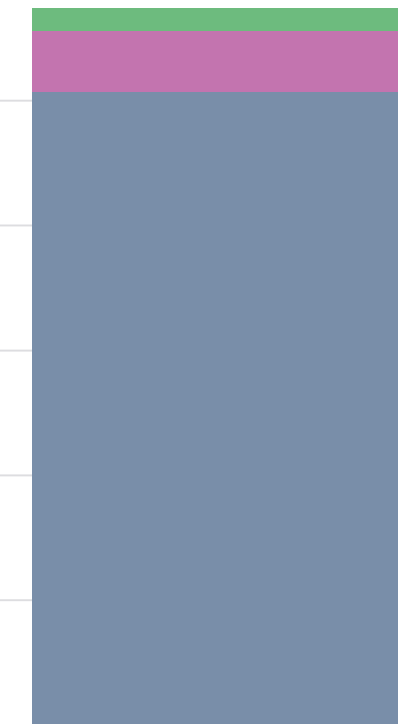
Education choice empowers families to select the **best educational fit**.



# Total K-12 Population vs. Choice Enrollment



Of all K-12 students in America, approximately 50.7 million are enrolled in public schools, 4.9 million in private schools, and about 1.8 million students are homeschooled.



All K-12 Students

Homeschool (1.8M)

Private (4.9M)

Public (50.7M)

Private Choice (487,909)

Homeschool (1.8M)

Magnet (2.6M)

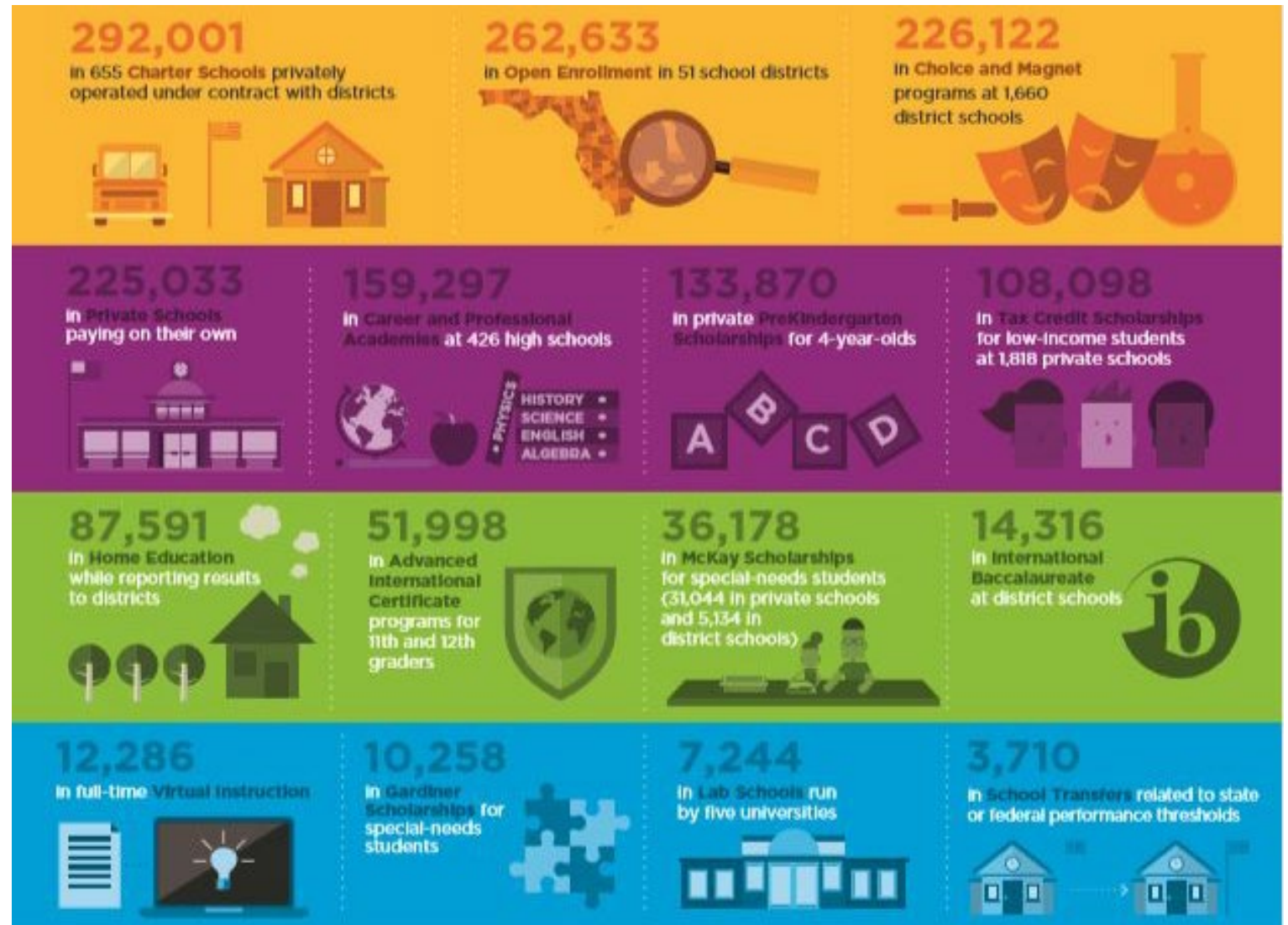
Charter (3.2M)

Choice Enrollment



School choice is now mainstream in Florida. Of Florida's 3.4 million PreK-12 students, **47% attended a school of their choice** during the 2017-18 school year.

Source: RedefinED, <https://www.redefinedonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/landscape-doc.jpg>





Charter schools are **publicly-funded, independently-operated schools**. They operated under a performance contract with an authorizer (e.g. a district, the state, or other entity) and receive more autonomy in exchange for greater accountability.

Charter Schools		Traditional Public Schools
✓	Tuition-free	✓
✓	Open to all students	✓
✓	Publicly funded	✓
✓	Non-sectarian	✓
✓	Accountable to state standards	✓
✗	Operated by a school district	✓

The charter construct is simple, yet profoundly different than traditional district schools.

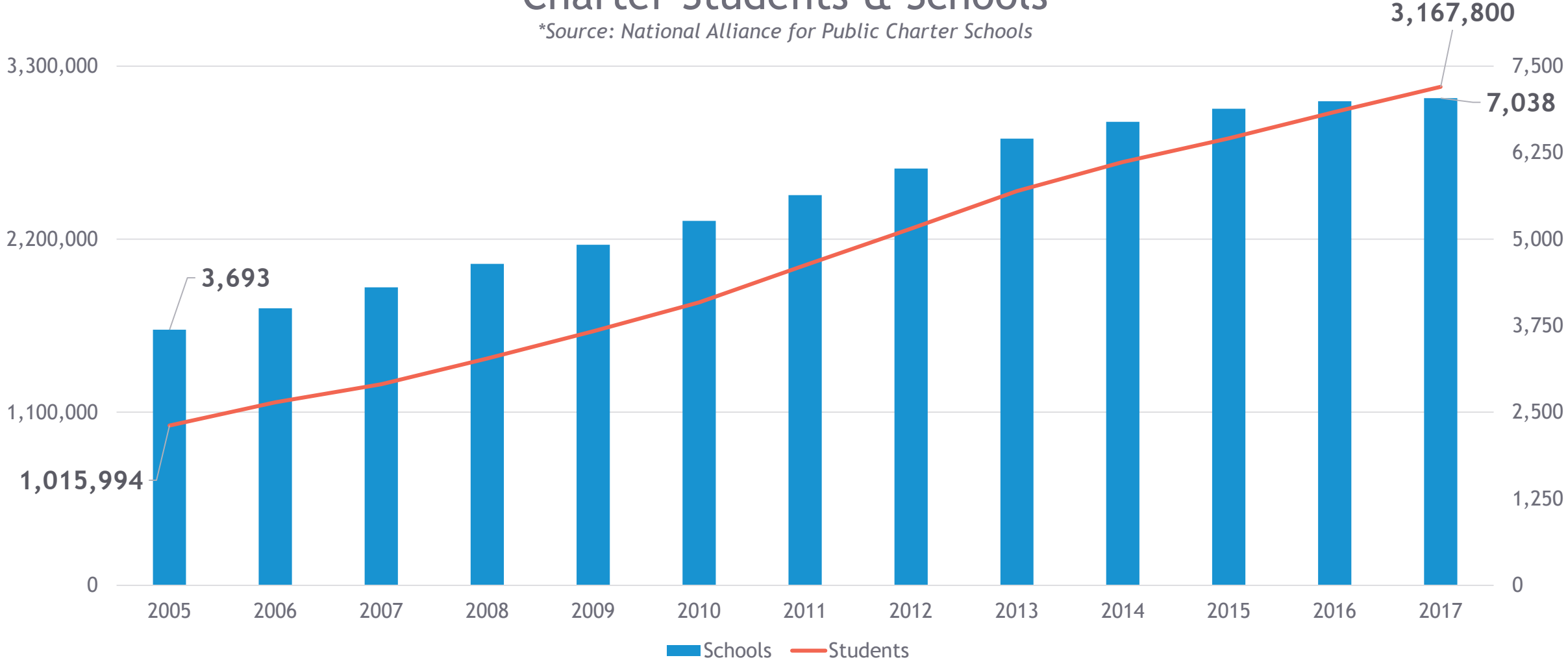
**If a charter school is failing, close it.**

**If it is succeeding, provide it with the ability to expand to serve more students.**



## Charter Students & Schools

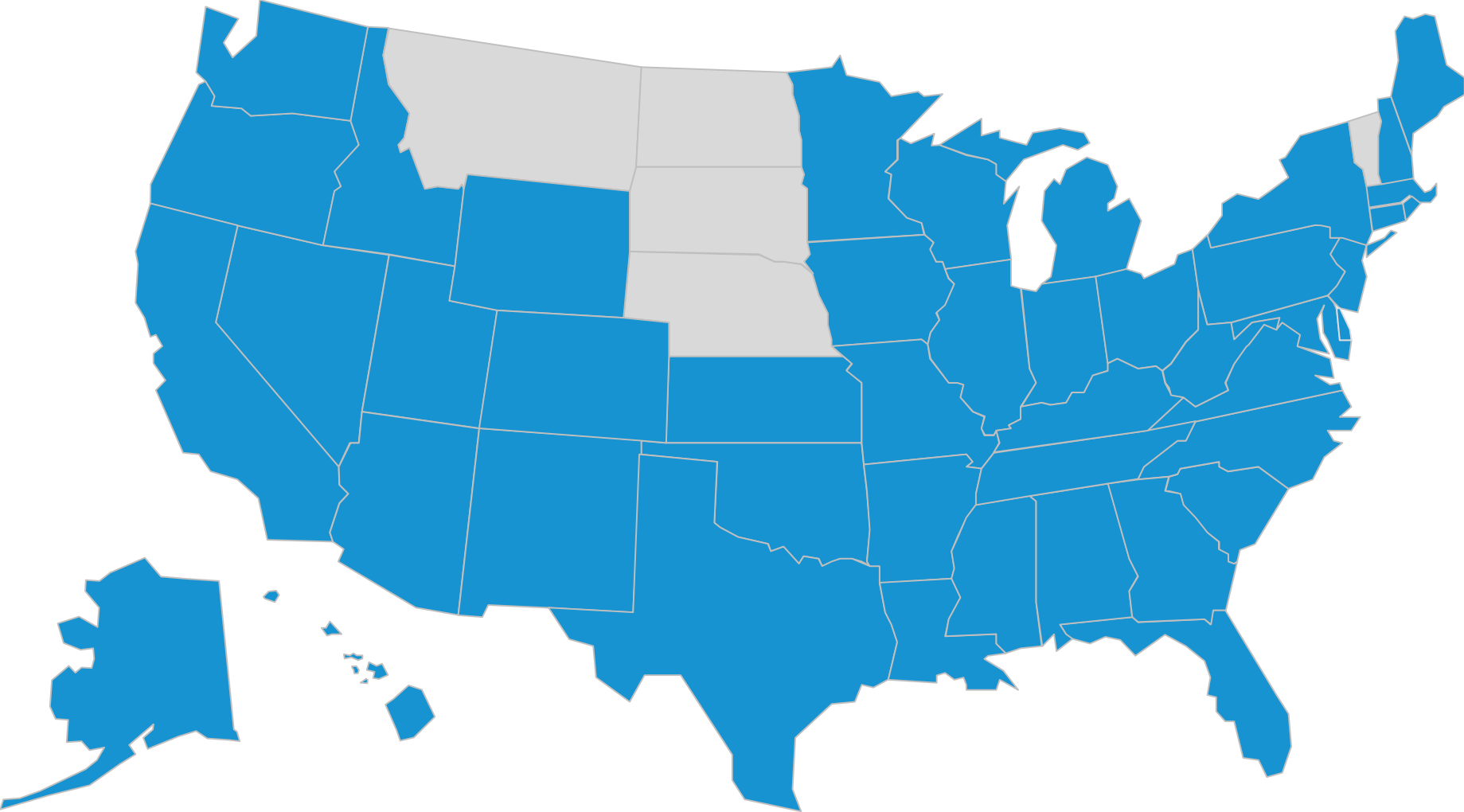
*\*Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools*



# States with Charter School Laws



45 states + D.C. + Puerto Rico + Guam have Public Charter School Laws







## Private Education Choice



### Vouchers

State-funded coupons that parents can redeem at *private schools* for tuition.



### Tax-Credit Scholarships

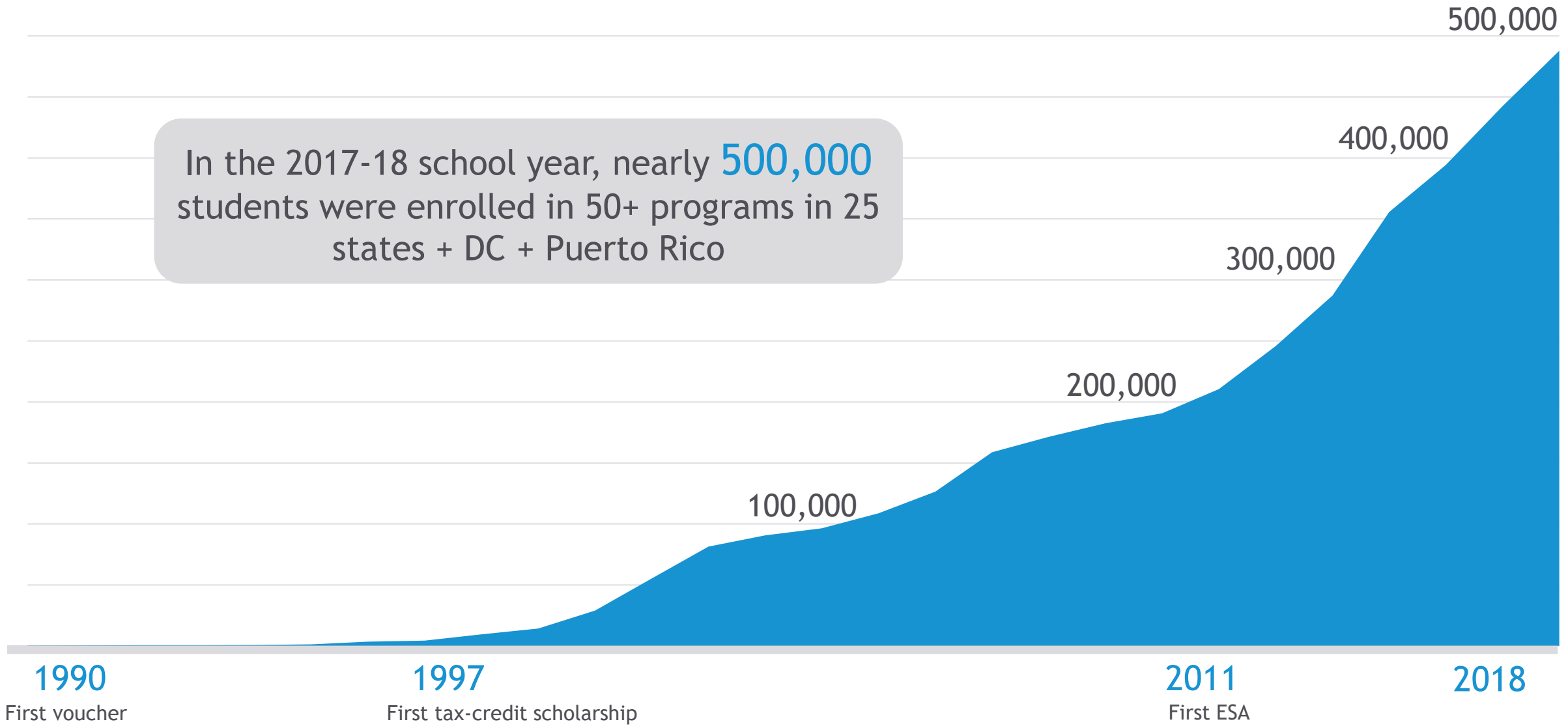
Businesses and individuals make **private donations** to nonprofit organizations that provide *private school scholarships* to eligible students. Businesses and individuals receive a state tax credit. Courts have consistently considered these funds as private, not state funds.



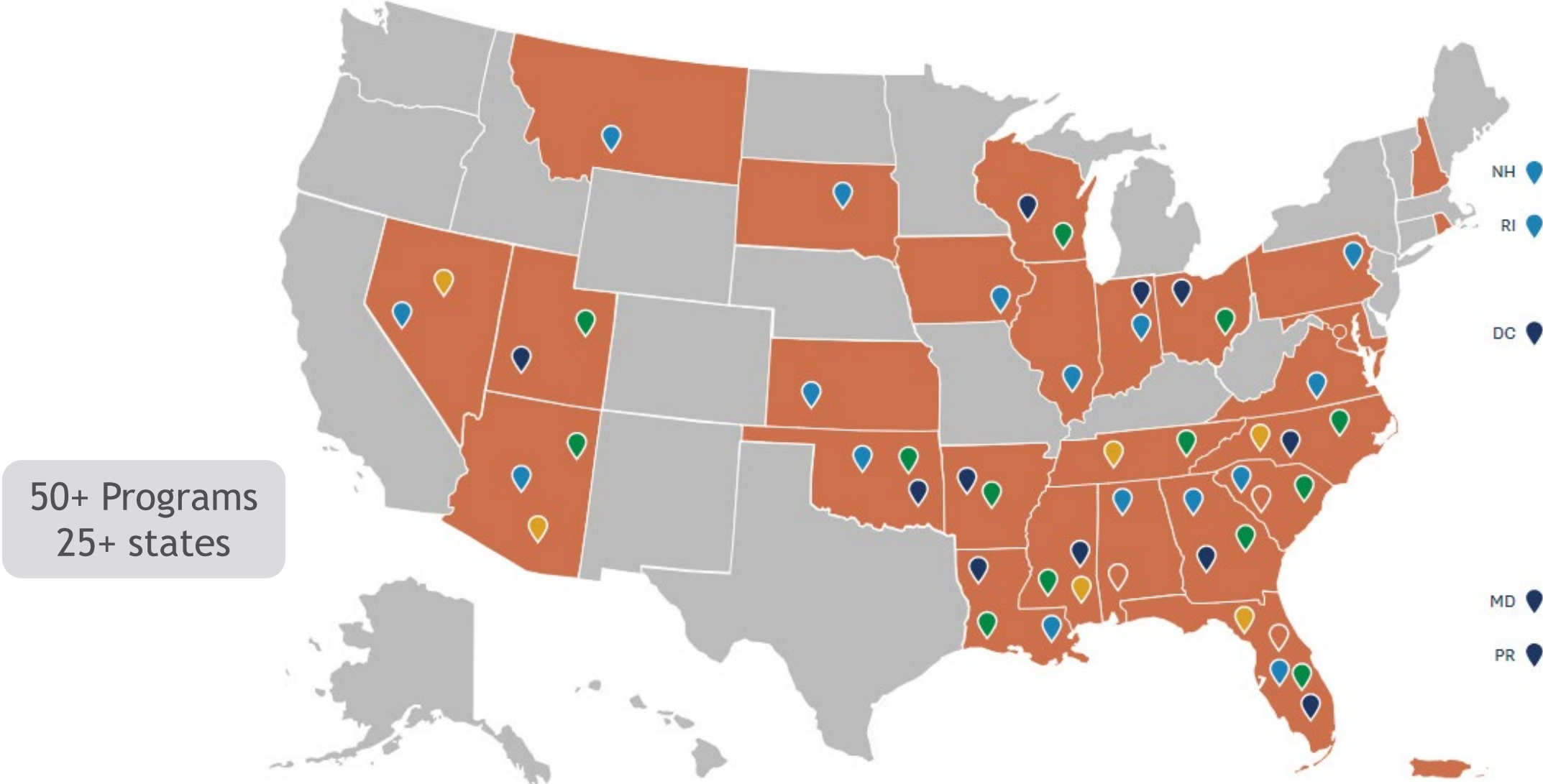
### Education Scholarship Accounts

A **flexible education account** for an individual student. Parents can customize and direct funds in an ESA to *combinations of approved educational uses*. All existing ESA programs are funded like vouchers, but some states are exploring funding ESAs through tax credits.

# Private Education Choice Growth



# States with Private Education Choice Programs



Source: AFC, <https://www.federationforchildren.org/school-choice-america/interactive-map/>