



My name is Zach Eckert, and I am the Regional Legislative Director for ExcelinEd in Action.

Our organization rises in support of House Bill 2119. Simply put, this bill gives more students in Kansas the ability to receive the education they choose. Given the struggles families are experiencing due to COVID-19, Education Scholarship Accounts (ESA) are particularly suited to help families now - and in the future - access the school, services and tools they need to meet their individual learning needs.

There are five active ESA programs in the country. Currently, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, North Dakota, New Hampshire and Georgia are also considering ESA legislation this session.

A new national survey from Democratic pollster Beck Research finds support for school choice policies remaining remarkably high across the country. Sixty-five percent of K-12 parents support school choice, including 66 percent of public-school parents. Additionally, Ed Choice's most recent polling in Indiana shows support for ESA's to be at 67% when people are given a description of what an ESA is. Similarly, vouchers receive 64% and charters 60% support when given a description.

In addition to the polling, research overwhelmingly shows the positive benefits of school choice. School choice leads to better student outcomes for all students, both in public and private school. School choice saves states money and allows for more funding to be available to school districts. School choice also results in less school segregation.

The evidence and polling are clear. I urge you to support House Bill 2119 and give Kansas families and students more choice in their education.