

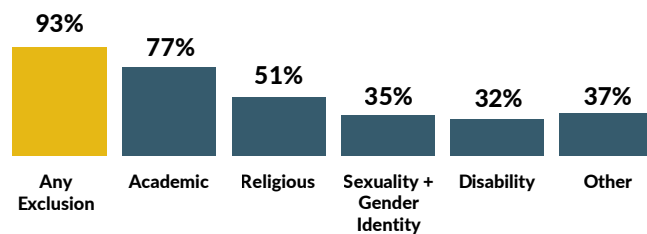
PUBLIC DOLLARS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS: Evaluating Access, Affordability, and Accountability in North Carolina's Universal Voucher Program

The Public School Forum of North Carolina has released a report exploring access, affordability and accountability in relation to the Opportunity Scholarship Program and the impacts of universal expansion for the program. Read the full report [here](#). The analysis includes the 200 schools that received the most funding from taxpayer-funded vouchers in the 2024-25 school year.

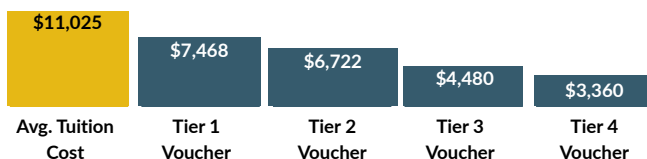
Voucher Schools are Not Accessible to the Public

Private schools accepting vouchers often exercise substantial discretion in their admissions decisions, raise tuition after receiving voucher funding, and fail to provide adequate information needed for families to make an informed decision. As a result, North Carolina's voucher program has increasingly benefited white students, those who live in urban and suburban areas, those from higher income households, and those who have never attended public schools.

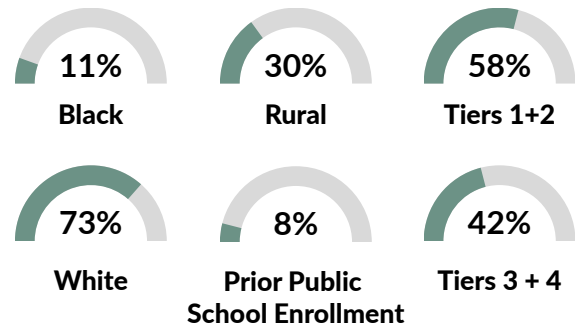
Exclusionary Practices in Private School Admission Processes and School Policies



Average Tuition Costs vs. Voucher Amount (2024-25)



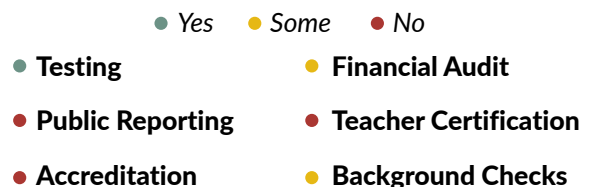
2024-25 Opportunity Scholarship Recipients



Voucher Schools are Not Accountable to the Public

Throughout the history of the Opportunity Scholarship program, very few regulations or accountability measures for voucher-receiving private schools have been enacted, making it very difficult for policymakers, parents, and taxpayers to evaluate their performance. North Carolina stands out among other states with school voucher programs due to its lack of accountability and reporting requirements.

Opportunity Scholarship Program Accountability



Policy Recommendations



Fully Fund Public Schools Before Allocating Taxpayer Dollars to Private Schools



End Private School Discrimination



Increase Accountability and Reporting Requirements for Participating Private Schools