

# 2018 OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE SCHOOL CHOICE REPORT CARD

## OVERVIEW

This report card evaluates how state legislators voted on school choice issues during the 2018 legislative session by tracking their votes on 4 key pieces of legislation dealing with the expansion of access to educational options for Oklahoma families and kids.

Choice Matters is a statewide program that focuses on giving parents information, resources, and support to help them navigate Oklahoma's pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education offerings.

## BILL SUMMARIES

### HOUSE BILL

#### HOUSE BILL 3537

House Bill 3537 seeks to amend the Oklahoma Equal Opportunity Education Scholarship Act and increase the annual cap for tax credits. Currently, the cap for contributions to a scholarship-granting organization (SGO) is \$3.5 million and \$1.5 million to an educational improvement grant organization. HB 3537 would increase the cap to \$10 million and \$5 million, respectively, and authorizes an automatic 25% increase to the cap for any subsequent tax year where total tax credits issued in the preceding year is equal to or greater than 85% of the total authorized students. HB 3537 further seeks to modify the definition of the SGO to require 50% of its total expenditures each year be for low-income eligible students.

*Last Action: The bill passed the House Budget and Appropriations Finance Committee but was referred to House Appropriations and Budget Committee where it failed.*

#### SENATE BILL 560

Senate Bill 560 seeks to establish Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) through the Parent Empowerment, Revenue Enhancement and Classroom Size Reduction Act. This act would make available ESAs through the State Treasurer's office for eligible students attending participating schools. The act includes but is not limited to providing a process for parents and legal guardians to request participation; requiring parents and legal

guardians to provide notification of certain events; requiring annual renewal of education scholarship accounts; ensures that monies received pursuant to the program do not constitute taxable income; limits use of an education scholarship account to certain qualified expenditures; provides for expenditure of unused education scholarship account funds. SB 560 provides a process whereby the State Board of Education approves participating schools. It directs the State Board of Education to calculate, reserve and retain the amount to be transferred into education scholarship accounts and to promulgate rules providing for verification of family household income. It directs the transfer of said funds to the Office of the State Treasurer, allowing the Office of the State Treasurer to retain a certain amount for administrative services and creating the Oklahoma Education Scholarship Account Revolving Fund. It prohibits a participating school from sharing, refunding or rebating funds from an education scholarship account with certain individuals and provides procedures for a parent or legal guardian to be suspended and/or removed from the program. SB 560 limits the percentage of eligible students to not more than one percent (1%) of the total number of students enrolled in public schools statewide each school year. Funding will be based on a first come, first serve basis.

*Last Action: The bill's title was stricken under the Committee on Education, did not advance.*

#### SENATE BILL 981

Senate Bill 981 seeks to be exempt certain populations of students from the “prior school year in attendance” requirement but requires all students to meet all other eligibility requirements to participate.

*Last Action: The bill failed in Education Committee and did not advance.*

---

#### **SENATE BILL 990**

Senate Bill 990 seeks to amend the powers and duties of the Statewide Virtual School Board; to require statewide virtual charter schools to meet a certain promotion rate and would prohibit the statewide charter school from receiving certain funding if the promotion was not met for a specific number of years. If the promotion rate improves to a certain level by a determined date, then funds would also direct that funds would once again be provided.

*Last Action: The bill did not advance.*

---

#### **SENATE BILL 1384**

Senate Bill 1384 seeks to modify the annual limit on total tax credits allowed for any taxpayer who makes a contribution to an eligible scholarship granting organization (SGO). The credit shall be equal to fifty percent (50%) of the total amount of contributions made during a taxable year, not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for single individuals, Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for married individuals filing jointly, or One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for any taxpayer which is a legal business entity including limited and general partnerships, corporations, subchapter S corporations and limited liability companies; provided, if total credits claimed pursuant to this paragraph exceed the caps established, the credit shall be equal to the taxpayer's proportionate share of the cap for the taxable year. Any taxpayer who makes a contribution to an eligible SGO and makes a written commitment to contribute the same amount for an additional year, the credit for the first year and the additional year shall be equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the total amount of the contribution made during a taxable year, not to exceed the defined amounts for the taxable year in which the credit provided is claimed.

SB 1384 new language would increase the annual cap under the Oklahoma Equal Opportunity Education Act. Currently, the cap for contributions to a SGO is \$3.5

million and \$1.5 million to an educational improvement grant organization. SB 1384 would increase the cap to \$10 million and \$5 million respectively. When total estimated credits are equal or exceed eighty-five percent (85%) of the cap provided in the bill, the authorized total credits allowed in the next tax year shall increase by twenty-five percent (25%) and shall establish the new total credits authorized under the bill. SB 1384 insures 50% of expenditures for scholarships are for the benefit of students from low-income families, as defined therein.

*Last Action: The bill failed to pass the Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee. The bill did not advance.*

Representative	HB 3537 A&B Finance Comm.	HB 3537 A&B Comm.	Percentage	Grade
Babinec, Greg (R)				
Baker, Rhonda (R)				
Bennett, Forest (D)		Y	100%	A+
Bennett, John (R)			100%	A+
Biggs, Scott (R)				
Blancett, Meloyde (D)				
Boles, Brad (R)				
Brumbaugh, David (R)				
Bush, Carol (R)	Y		100%	A+
Caldwell, Chad (R)		Y	100%	A+
Calvey, Kevin (R)		Y	100%	A+
Cannaday, Ed (D)				
Casey, Dennis (R)		N	0%	F
Cleveland, Bobby (R)				
Cockroft, Josh (R)		N	0%	F
Condit, Donnie (D)				
Coody, Jeff (R)				
Derby, Dale (R)				
District 45				
District 61				
Dollens, Mickey (D)				
Downing, Tim (R)				
Dunlap, Travis (R)				
Dunnington, Jason (D)		N	0%	F
Echols, Jon (R)		Y	100%	A+
Enns, John (R)				
Faught, George (R)				
Fetgatter, Scott (R)				
Ford, Roger (R)				
Ford, Ross (R)				
Fourkiller, William (D)				
Frix, Avery (R)				
Gaddis, Karen (D)				
Gann, Tom (R)				
Goodwin, Regina (D)				
Griffith, Claudia (D)	N		0%	F
Hall, Elise (R)		Y	100%	A+

Hardin, Tommy (R)				
Henke, Katie (R)				
Hilbert, Kyle (R)	N		0%	F
Hoskin, Chuck (D)				
Humphrey, Justin (R)				
Inman, Scott (D)		N	0%	F
Jordan, John Paul (R)		Y	100%	A+
Kannady, Chris (R)		Y	100%	A+
Kerbs, Dale (R)				
Kouplen, Steve (D)		N	0%	F
Lepak, Mark (R)		Y	100%	A+
Loring, Ben (D)		N	0%	F
Lowe, Jason (D)				
Martin, Scott (R)				
Martinez, Ryan (R)				
McBride, Mark (R)				
McCall, Charles (R)				
McDaniel, Randy (R)				
McDugle, Kevin (R)				
McEachin, Scott (R)				
McEntire, Marcus (R)	Y		100%	A+
Meredith, Matt (D)				
Montgomery, John (R)	Y		100%	A+
Moore, Lewis (R)				
Mulready, Glen (R)				
Munson, Cyndi (D)				
Murdock, Casey (R)				
Murphey, Jason (R)				
Newton, Carl (R)				
Nichols, Monroe (D)				
Nollan, Jadine (R)				
O'Donnell, Terry (R)		Y	100%	A+
Ortega, Charles (R)		Y	100%	
Osborn, Leslie (R)		N	0%	F
Osburn, Mike (R)				
Ownbey, Pat (R)		Y	100%	A+
Park, Scooter (R)				
Perryman, David (D)				
Pfeiffer, John (R)		N	0%	F
Proctor, Eric (D)		N	0%	F
Renegar, Brian (D)				
Ritze, Mike (R)				
Roberts, Dustin (R)		N	0%	F

Roberts, Sean (R)				
Rogers, Michael (R)				
Rosecrants, Jacob (D)				
Russ, Todd (R)		Y	100%	A+
Sanders, Mike (R)		N	0%	F
Sears, Earl (R)	Y	Y	100%	A+
Stone, Shane (D)		N	0%	F
Strohm, Chuck (R)				
Tadlock, Johnny (D)				
Taylor, Zack (R)				
Teague, Tess (R)				
Thomsen, Todd (R)				
Vaughan, Steve (R)				
Virgin, Emily (D)		N	0%	F
Walke, Collin (D)	N		0%	F
Wallace, Kevin (R)		N	0%	F
Watson, Weldon (R)	Y		100%	A+
West, Josh (R)				
West, Kevin (R)				
West, Rick (R)				
West, Tammy (R)				
Williams, Cory (D)				
Worthen, Rande (R)				
Wright, Harold (R)				
Young, George (D)				

SENATE REPORT CARD

Senator	SB 1384 Appropriations and Budget Comm. (NA)	SB 560 NO VOTE
Allen, Mark (R)		
Bass, Randy (D)		
Bergstrom, Michael (R)		
Bice, Stephanie (R)		
Boggs, Larry (R)		
Brecheen, Josh (R)		
Brooks, Michael (R)		
Brown, Bill (R)		
Dahm, Nathan (R)		
Daniels, Julie (R)		
David, Kim (R)		
Dossett, J.J. (D)		
Dugger, Tom (R)		
Fields, Eddie (R)		
Floyd, Kay (D)		
Fry, Jack (R)		
Griffin, A J (R)		
Holt, David (R)		
Ikley-Freeman		
Jech, Darcy (R)		
Kidd, Chris (R)		
Leewright, James (R)		
District 45		
Murdock		
McCortney, Greg (R)		
Marlatt, Bryce (R)		
Matthews, Kevin (D)		
Newberry, Dan (R)		
Newhouse, Joe (R)		
Paxton, Lonnie (R)		

Pederson, Roland (R)		
Pemberton, Dewayne (R)		
Pittman, Anastasia (D)		
Pugh, Adam (R)		
Quinn, Marty (R)		
Rader, Dave (R)		
Rosino		
Schulz, Mike (R)		
Scott, Paul (R)		
Sharp, Ron (R)		
Shaw, Wayne (R)		
District 44		
Silk, Joseph (R)		
Simpson, Frank (R)		
Smalley, Jason (R)		
Sparks, John (D)		
Standridge, Rob (R)		
Stanislowski, Gary (R)		
Sykes, Anthony (R)		
Thompson, Roger (R)		
Treat, Greg (R)		
Yen, Ervin (R)		