



School Choice

Background

- There are many types of school choice
 - School Vouchers
 - Universal Voucher Programs (Sweden)
 - Means-Tested Voucher Programs (Milwaukee, Cleveland, Washington, D.C., Louisiana)
 - Failing Schools, Failing Students Voucher Program (Ohio)
 - Special Needs Voucher Programs (Ohio, Florida, Utah, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Louisiana)
 - Pre-K Voucher Programs (Florida)
 - Town Tuitioning Programs (Maine and Vermont)
 - Tax Credit Scholarship Programs
 - Personal Tax Credit and Deductions
 - Alternative Education Options
 - Homeschooling
 - Charter Schools
 - Virtual Schools and Online Schooling
- PA has tax credit scholarship programs and alternative education options, not school vouchers



School Choice (cont'd.)

Current Status

- SB 1 would provide school choice via vouchers to low-income families in failing schools
 - Phased in over three years
 - Year 1 – Only low income students in “persistently lowest-achieving” schools
 - Year 2 – Low income students in underperforming districts
 - Year 3 – All low income students are eligible
 - Allows public schools to apply for voucher money in the program’s fourth year
 - There would be a \$250 million annual cap on the amount of voucher money spent
 - Funding for the vouchers program comes from the basic education subsidy that state pays local school districts
 - The more of a school’s students use voucher to attend other institutions, the less state money that school gets
- SB 1 passed the Senate Appropriation Committee on Monday, April 11th
- It has not been voted on by the full Senate or House