

Action Alert- Oppose HB2532/SB2247

Expansion of the School Voucher Program is bad for Tennessee

We need your help to stop the expansion of Education Freedom Scholarships (private school vouchers) from the current 20,000 vouchers this year to 35,000 next year.¹ **HB2532/SB2247** would dramatically expand the administration's push to subsidize private schools at the expense of Tennessee's public schools. The value of the FY26-27 private school vouchers will be \$7,530 per student. The bill would increase taxpayer spending from \$145 million on private school vouchers this year to \$264 million next year.

Talking points:

- Private school vouchers waste taxpayer dollars on private schools for wealthy families while our public schools are underfunded.²
- Private schools exclude children with special needs—leaving them to public schools—making public schools even more underfunded.
- Rural counties lose out when taxpayer funds do not support local public schools and no private schools are available as an option for their children. The vast majority of vouchers are awarded to families in the state's large wealthy urban areas.
- Most students who received the ESA voucher performed worse on standardized tests than public school students.³ It is irresponsible to expand a program that is wasting taxpayer dollars while hurting Tennessee's students.

These key legislators on the House Finance Committee need to hear from you ASAP! Please call or email their office by Monday afternoon and urge them to vote NO on HB2532. Phone calls are best. It is okay to leave a message. Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent if you are.

Find your legislator here: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/fml/search>.

- Baum, Charlie rep.charlie.baum@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-6849
- Cochran, Mark rep.mark.cochran@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-1725
- Faison, Jeremy rep.jeremy.faison@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-6871
- Hale, Michael rep.michael.hale@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-2192
- Hawk, David B. rep.david.hawk@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-7482
- Hulsey, Bud, rep.bud.hulsey@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-2886
- Vaughan, Kevin rep.kevin.vaughan@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-1866

¹ These details reflect the March 24 fiscal note (FM3007). The governor's original proposal added 15,000 vouchers rather than the 10,000 assumed by the fiscal note.

² While 10,000 vouchers are set aside for families-of-four with income up to \$175,000, there is no income limit on the additional 25,000 vouchers. Even with the subsidy, few low-income families can access good private schools. Private schools often have limited resources for students with special needs.

³ Office of Research and Education Accountability, *Education Savings Accounts: Program Evaluation*, January 2026.

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These key legislators on the Senate Finance Committee need to hear from you ASAP! Please call or email their office by Monday afternoon and urge them to vote NO on SB2247. Phone calls are best. It is okay to leave a message. Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent if you are.

Find your legislator here: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/fml/search>.

- Watson, Bo, sen.bo.watson@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-3227
- Yager, Ken, sen.ken.yager@capitol.tn.gov (615) 741-1449