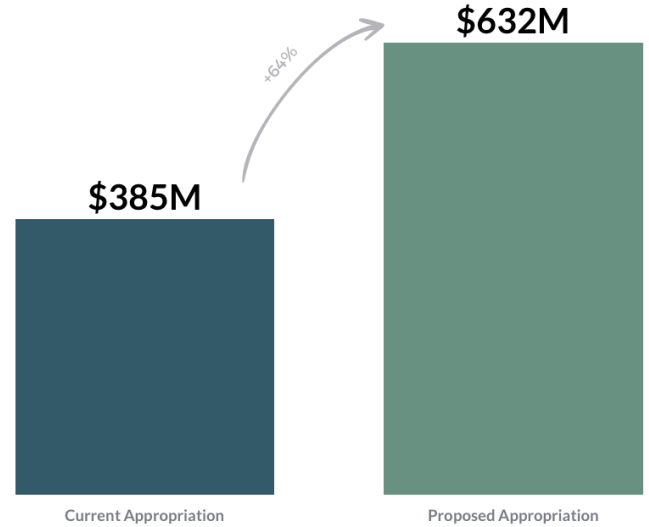


# OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVE THEM

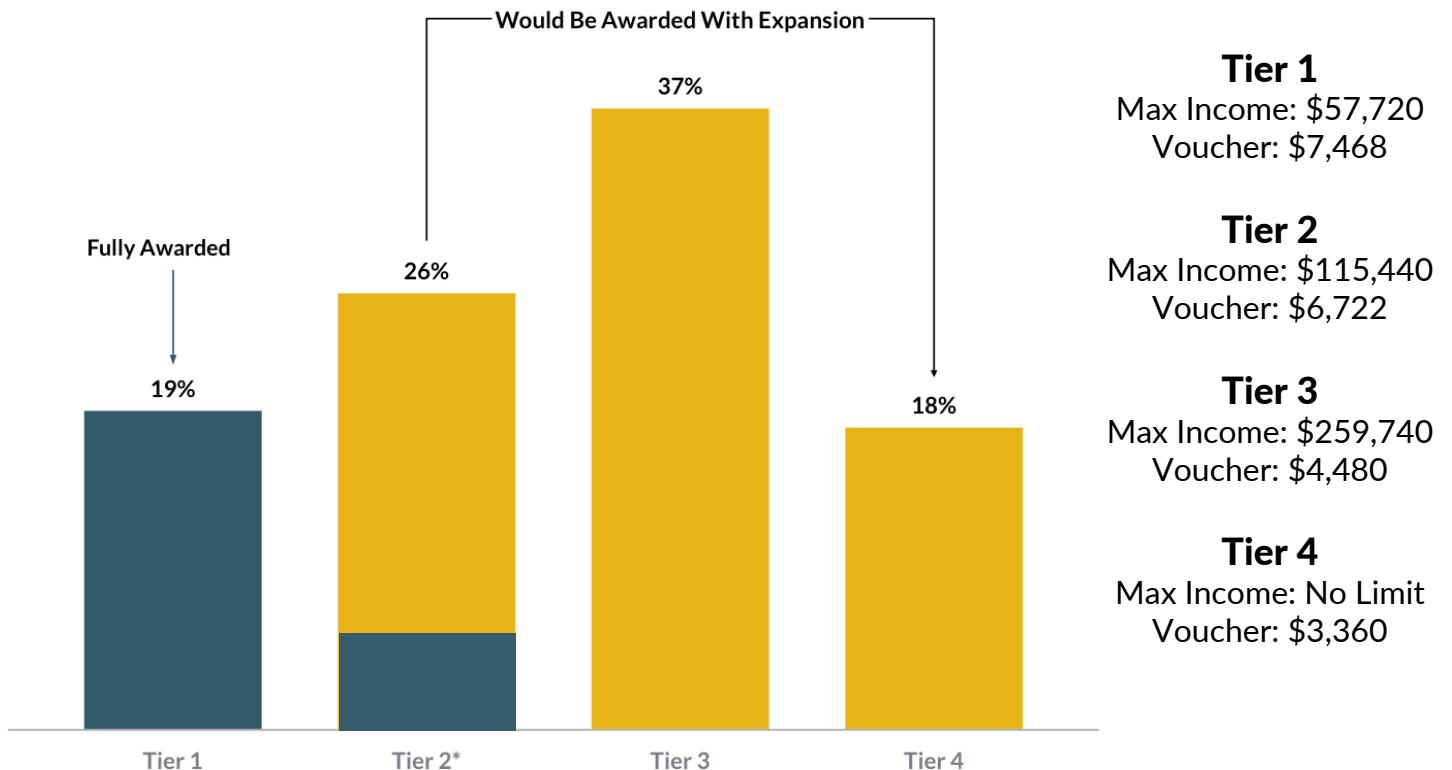
The NC Senate recently voted to give a total of \$632 million for taxpayer-funded private school vouchers to families of all income levels in 2024-25.

HB823/SB406 appropriates an additional \$248 million for the coming school year to the Opportunity Scholarship Fund, on top of the \$384.5 million that was already appropriated for the 2024-25 school year. The bill also appropriates an additional \$215 million to grant fund reserves, meaning that, in total, **nearly \$1 billion would be appropriated to the Opportunity Scholarship Program in 24-25.**



This will give taxpayer-funded private school vouchers to every family that applied, regardless of their income level, for the 24-25 school year. **Over half of families who would receive taxpayer dollars to attend private schools make over \$115,400, including 18% who make over \$259,000 per year.**

## New Opportunity Scholarship Applicants by Income Tiers

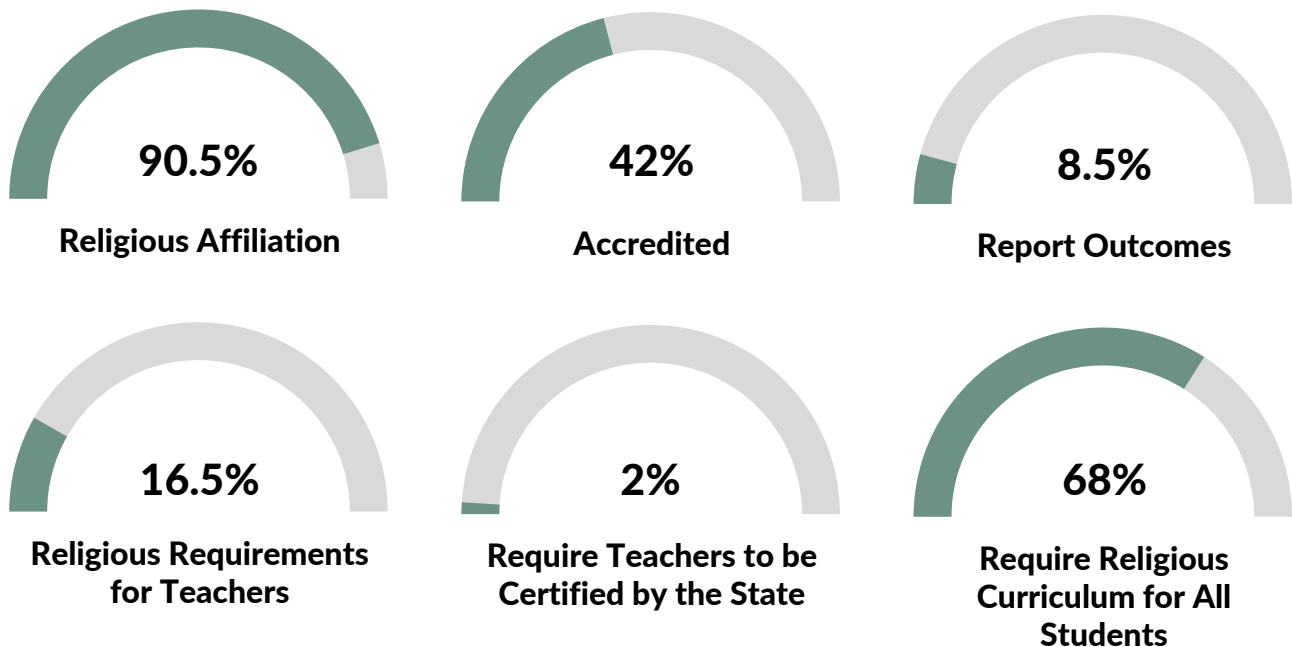


\*Approximately 3000 applicants in Tier 2 have received scholarships under current funding.

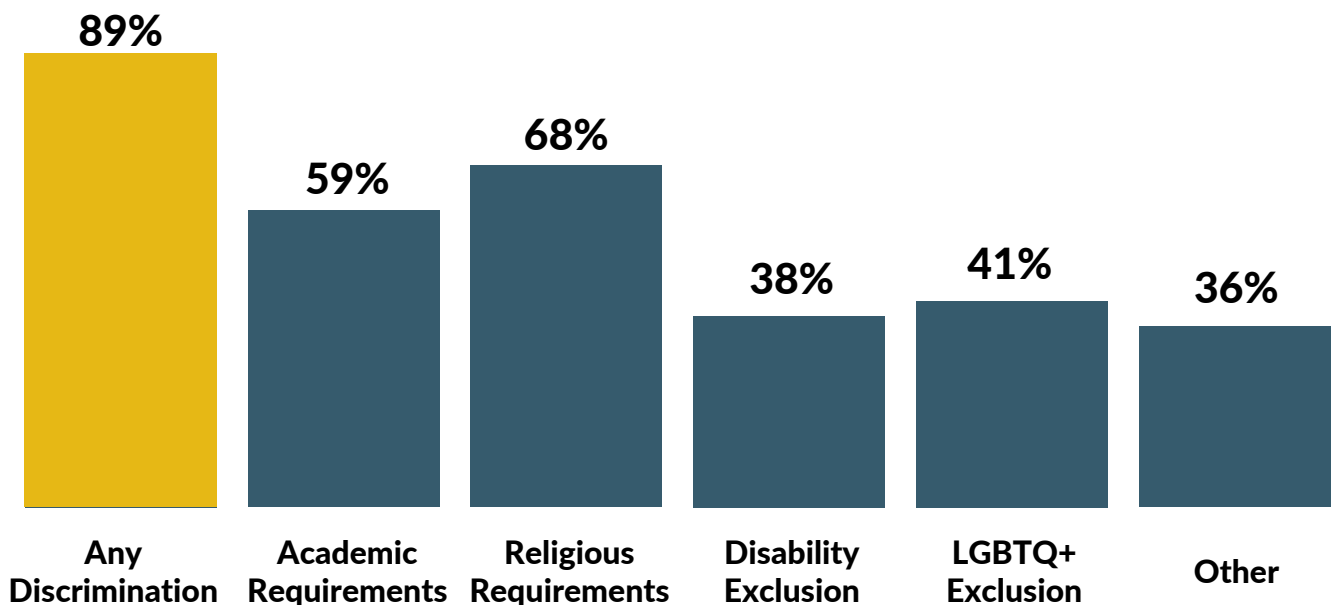
## A Breakdown of the 200 Schools that Received the Most Voucher Funds in the 23-24 School Year

In order of most voucher funding, the most-funded 200 private schools received \$112,764,209 out of the \$150M that went to vouchers in 2023-24, accounting for **75% of the total funding and enrollment.**

### School Information



### Discrimination in the Admission Process



## Accountability and Reporting Requirements for Private Schools Receiving Vouchers in North Carolina

Throughout the nearly ten-year history of this program, very few regulations or accountability measures for these private schools have been enacted, making it very difficult for policymakers, parents, and taxpayers to evaluate their performance. Currently, the program has two minimal requirements for accountability.

01

### Standardized Testing

All private schools receiving voucher funds must administer a nationally-normed standardized test to students in grades three or higher enrolled in the program. Students in grades 3 and 8 must take a common exam selected by NCDPI, and 11th graders must take the ACT. Students in other grades will take any nationally-normed exam chosen by their school, **making reliable comparisons to public schools impossible.**

02

### Financial Review for Some Schools

Only voucher schools receiving at least \$300,000 annually in taxpayer funds are required to undergo a financial review with a CPA, which is public record. **In 2018-2019, only five percent of schools participating in the Opportunity Scholarship Program were required to complete a financial review.**

**North Carolina stands out among other states and jurisdictions with school voucher programs due to its lack of accountability and reporting requirements for schools receiving voucher funding.**

Public Schools	Private Schools
Teachers must be certified	No teacher certification requirements
School calendar law requires 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction	No requirements for minimum hours/days of instruction
Follow NC Standard Course of Study	No accreditation requirements; no curricular requirements
Participate in state testing program, data are publicly available	Common exam required in grades 3 and 8; ACT required in grade 11; data only reported for schools with 25+ voucher students in a single grade
Accept all children, provide free/reduced lunch and transportation	Set own admissions requirements and tuition; do not provide free/reduced lunch or transportation

## Making an Informed School Choice: A Guide For North Carolina Families

### Academics

- Is your school accredited?
- What curriculum do you use?
- What are your course offerings?
- What standardized testing do you use?
- Can you share student performance information for your standardized testing?
- How do you measure individual achievement and progress?
- Are teachers required to be certified? If so, what certification is required?
- How many instructional days/hours are in a school year?

### Operations

- How much is tuition and what does it include and not include?
- Are there any essentials not included in tuition?
- Is your school a for-profit or non-profit school?
- Who governs the school and sets curriculum and policies?
- Do school staff answer to a Board of Directors or other organization?
- What facilities and resources do you have?
- Do you offer transportation or lunch services?

