

# Parental School Choice

NCEA supports the concept of full and fair parental choice in education which is supported by tax relief, voucher, scholarships and other aid to parents so they may seek the educational opportunities they want for their children.

## Definitions of Parental Choice Options that Include Private School Students

Parental choice in education encompasses a range of options that allow parents to select the type of school they wish for their children. The usual choice options include:

- A **publicly funded voucher** is a payment the government makes to a parent, or an institution on a parent's behalf, to be used for a child's education expenses.
- A **privately funded voucher** is a payment that a private organization makes to a parent, or an institution on a parent's behalf, to be used for a child's education expenses.
- A **tax credit** provides direct reductions to an individual's tax liability. A refundable credit allows for a tax refund if the credit exceeds the liability.
- A **tax deduction** is a reduction in taxable income made prior to the calculation of tax liability.
- A **private scholarship tax credit** allows individuals and businesses to take a tax credit for contributions to a private, nonprofit organization that provides scholarship aid for children to attend a school of their parents choosing.
- An **education savings account (ESA)** parents withdraw their children from public district and receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted education uses including tuition and fees.

## Public School Choice Options

- A **charter school** is a public school that has been established by parents, teachers, community groups and public and private organizations interested in promoting school choice and competition within the public sector. The charters for these schools typically provide for a clear, focused mission, a smaller student population that facilitates creation of community, more innovative teaching practices, greater parental and local community involvement, clear educational and fiscal standards and accountability measures and fewer state and local school board bureaucratic regulations.
- A **magnet school** is a public school that is organized around a specific program or philosophy and enrolls students across the district.
- Public school **inter-district or intra-district** enrollment, allowing student to attend schools outside their attendance zone, within or across district lines, without charge.