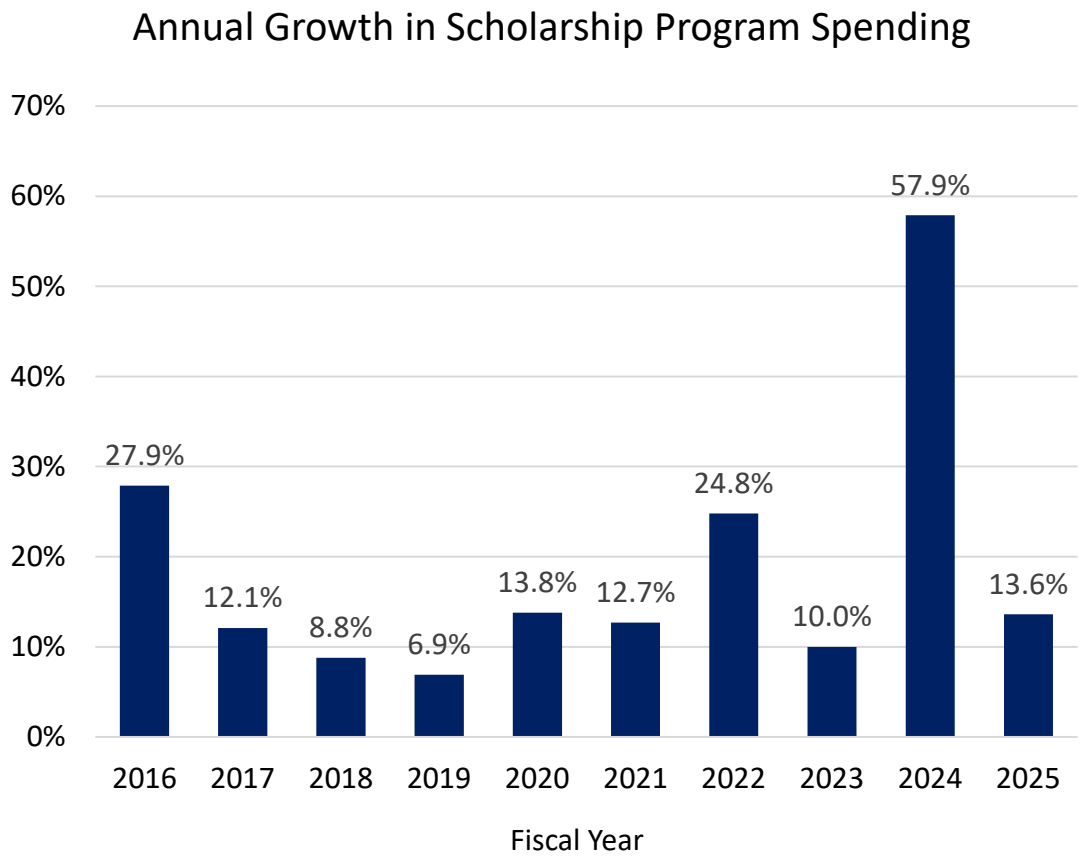
School Choice Programs

State scholarship spending grew 14% in FY 2025 due primarily to increased EdChoice participation



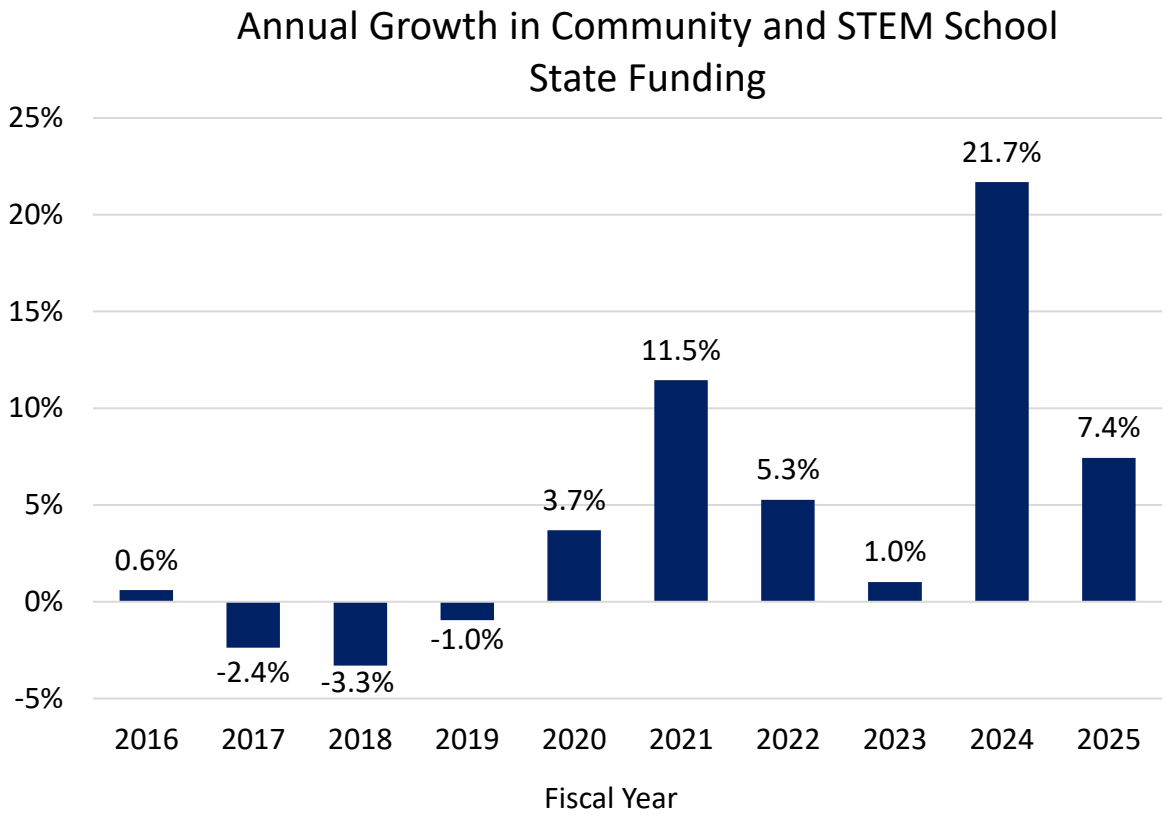
Source: Department of Education and Workforce

- Total spending on state scholarships to attend K-12 private schools increased by $131.1 million (13.6%) in FY 2025, to $1.09 billion.
  - The EdChoice Expansion Program increased by $87.4 million (21.6%), accounting for 66.7% of the overall increase in scholarship spending.
  - In FY 2024, the EdChoice Expansion Program became open to all students, regardless of income, with means-tested award amounts.
  - Total spending on other scholarship programs increased by $43.7 million (7.8%).
- In FY 2025, nearly 162,700 full-time equivalent students received a scholarship, an increase of about 15,100 students (10.2%) from FY 2024.
  - EdChoice Expansion was responsible for most (82.3%) of this growth, increasing by 12,400 students.

State Scholarship Spending by Program, FY 2025

Program	Students	Spending (millions)	Share of Spending
EdChoice Expansion scholarships	99,388	$492.7	45.0%
Traditional EdChoice scholarships	41,584	$283.1	25.9%
Autism scholarships	5,496	$160.0	14.6%
Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarships	8,124	$104.0	9.5%
Cleveland scholarships	8,068	$55.1	5.0%
Total	**162,661**	**$1,094.9**	**100%**

Community and STEM school state funding increased 7% in FY 2025



Source: Department of Education and Workforce

- State funding for community and STEM schools increased by $101.5 million (7.4%) in FY 2025, to a total of $1.47 billion.
  - Community and STEM schools are public schools governed independently from any school district.
  - "State funding" represents the three major sources of state funding for the schools: (1) foundation aid, (2) facilities funding, and (3) the Quality Community and Independent STEM Schools Support Program.
- Most of the growth was from foundation aid, which increased $85.1 million (7.2%) mainly due to enrollment growth.
- Additional aid for facilities and for schools meeting certain quality standards grew by a combined $16.4 million (9.4%).
- Over 123,500 students (7.7% of public school enrollment) were enrolled in community and STEM schools in FY 2025, an increase of 2,800 (2.3%) from FY 2024.

Community and STEM School State Funding by Source, FY 2025

Source	Funding (millions)	Share of Funding
Foundation aid	$1,275.5	87.0%
Quality schools support	$102.5	7.0%
Facilities funding	$88.6	6.0%
Total	**$1,466.5**	**100%**