



*Thomas Jefferson*

**LEGISLATIVE POLICY BRIEF**

What is the Record of School Choice in Florida?

Delegates Jimmie Massie (R-Henrico), Algie Howell (D-Norfolk), and Tag Greason (R-Loudoun) have introduced legislation (HB 2314) creating a new tax credit program to improve education for at-risk children. The bill is very similar to the provisions of the Florida Tax Credit Program, established in 2001. Here is the record of the Florida program.

- Program currently serves more than 33,000 students, or nearly 2.5% of those eligible
- Demographics of students in program:
  - 40% black
  - 24% Hispanic
  - 23% White
  - 13% Asian or other
- Florida Legislature’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability determined that the program saves the state \$36.2 million per year.
- 2010 program expansion passed
  - 93-25 in House (20 Democrats supporting)
  - 27-11 in Senate (4 Democrats supporting)
  - Supported by a majority of Legislative Black Caucus
  - Supported unanimously by Hispanic legislators

Comparison of Florida Law and Virginia Bill

<b>Florida</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Proposed Massie Bill</b>
Free and Reduced Meals; currently in public school or entering kindergarten and First Grade Students	<i>Eligibility</i>	Free and Reduced Meals; currently in public school or entering kindergarten and First Grade Students
1.4 million students	<i>Eligible Universe</i>	467,016 students (37% of public school students)
Tuition cost, up to current cap of \$4,106 per student.	<i>Scholarship Size</i>	Tuition cost, up to variable cap ranging from \$1,300 to \$6,700
100% of donation	<i>Corporate tax credit size</i>	70% of donation
<i>Saves 36.2 million per year (FL Legislature Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability)</i>	<i>Cost to Treasury</i>	Expected to produce positive revenue to the state
40% black; 24% Hispanic; 23% white; 2% Asian; 11% Other; 68% in Elementary School	<i>Student Profile</i>	Unknown
Currently, 33,139 students are using a scholarship, with 8,451 on a waiting list	<i>Students participating</i>	About 11,000 students would equal the same participation rate as Florida