



2023 Legislative Preview

The following are our education freedom goals in 2023, as well as some of the ways you can help. This document aims to provide our network with brief information regarding our goals in states.

If you're interested in helping out or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to an [AFC Lead](#) in your home state. If you're not sure who that is, reach out to Denisha Allen –we will be more than happy to connect you with the right staff members.

It is time to liberate Black minds because Black Minds Matter.

Arizona:

Goal: Increase funding for ESA scholarships and secure more funding for the Arizona Department of Education so they can properly promote and service the ESA program.

Activities: Help promote and educate the general public on the universal ESA, how it helps families, and contact Governor Hobbs to encourage her to allow families the opportunity to use the program.

Florida:

Goal: Expand the family empowerment scholarship program.

Activities: Accompany AFC staff to meet with legislators to express your support for expansion, tell the story of how the program is serving families well, and how it could serve even more families if it were expanded.

Illinois:

Goal: Extend the sunset provision attached to the scholarship tax credit program.

Activities: Engage legislators to make them aware of the need for the sunset provision to be extended. Collect and share stories of families using the tax credit to show its positive effects on students.

Iowa:

Goal: Pass an ESA program that will be implemented in the 2023/2024 school year.

Activities: Work with AFC staff to participate in media interviews and write Op-eds; attend school choice events to support the passage of an ESA; Work with AFC staff to reach out to and speak with legislators to encourage their support; provide testimony in support of passage of the ESA program.

Kentucky:

Goal: Work with legislators to increase support for a new program and chart a path forward for passage.

Activities: Express desires to representatives via phone calls, meetings, or letters to have a school choice program that can meet the needs of families who want options and access to their education dollars.

Missouri:

Goal: Increase open enrollment opportunities and expand the ESA program. Educate legislators on the benefits of school choice.

Activities: Accompany AFC staff to the Capitol to meet with legislators. Participate in press interviews/Op-eds with the help of AFC staff.

Nebraska:

Goal: Pass the state's first scholarship program – a tax credit scholarship program.

Activities: Work with AFC staff to speak at events on the merit of school choice programs and how they serve students and their families. Op-eds by school leaders, community members, and students who have benefitted from scholarships to attend the school of their choice would also be helpful.

Nevada:

Goal: Properly fund the Opportunity Scholarship Program, increase base funding and restore the small escalator in order to stabilize the program, address waiting lists, and provide for small incremental growth.

Activities: Join AFC staff in testifying at the Capitol, helping with event logistics, and educating and bringing families who benefit, or will benefit, from school choice opportunities to participate.

North Carolina:

Goal: The main goal and priority in 2023 is the expansion of K-12 private school scholarships, either through a universal style ESA or through expanding our current programs (means-based voucher and special needs ESA).

Activities: Work with AFC's partner, Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina (PEFNC), to educate legislators on how universal expansion has worked in other states and encourage all advocates in the state to push for broader K-12 school choice expansion.

Ohio:

Goal: Expand income eligibility for EdChoice scholarship programs; Increase cap on tax credit scholarship; and Increase funding for charter schools.

Activities: Fellows can assist School Choice Ohio efforts by recruiting parents and school staff to serve as SCO ambassadors; host legislative school visits; provide both in-person and written testimony during legislative hearings; and participate in rallies.

Oklahoma:

Goal: Pass a broad-based ESA program in Oklahoma.

Activities: Since Oklahoma doesn't typically allow for testimony, stories, op-eds, and videos explaining how school choice benefitted students are helpful.

Tennessee:

Goal: Expand geographical limitations of the ESA program; retroactively qualify students for ESAs from the period of time (2020-2022) when the program was hung up in court; install a provision that parents of students who receive an IEP are notified of the IEA (special needs) program.

Activities: Disseminate information and data on why school choice in rural areas is a good thing. Accompany AFC staff to testify about the positive effects of the ESA; educate other school leaders on how ESAs function in other states; attend ESA application days AFC will host in February, March, and April.

Texas:

Goal: Pass the state's first private school choice program - a large, broad-based Education Savings Account program.

Activities: Speak at AFC-sponsored events to let legislators know the benefits of school choice, how school choice functions well and serves students in surrounding states, and the desire of families in Texas to have school choice options.

Black Minds Matter is a project of the American Federation for Children.