SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS
[Kudos to Gerry Kruger]

1. CHARTER

PUBLIC $ to PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

(8 Charter schools in Virginia)

Examples
Albemarle County:
--Murray (grades 9-12)
--Community Public Charter School (grades 6-8)

... Robust Approval process. ...Parameters and reporting requirements extensive. ...Thorough VDOE regulations and oversight.

2. VOUCHERS (ESA’s)

(Education Savings Accounts)

SOQ $ to STUDENT LEAVING PUBLIC SCHOOL

PRIVATE & CORP $ to approved FOUNDATIONS to PRIVATE SCHOOLS to STUDENT

Results in fewer tax dollars to public schools

3. EISTC’s

(Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credits)

SOQ $= local districts share of state funds per pupil (based on property values, FAGI, and local sales tax)

Parent applies to school division for a one-year renewable savings account. Can be used for education-related expenses.

4. VIRTUAL (online learning)

(Varies from one course to full curriculum and used for long-term illness, out-of-school suspension, homeschooling, or for courses that cannot be offered in the local school division)

A. PUBLIC ONLINE LEARNING:

Virtual Virginia (VVA) Public web-based courses built by teams of content area, online learning experts.

B. PRIVATE ONLINE LEARNING

(SOQ $ to PRIVATE COMPANIES)

- Corporations such as K12Inc (VAVA) Virginia Virtual Academy

CONCERNS:
- Pressure for expansion by corporations for profit
- Pressure from legislators.
- Teacher- student ratio poor
- In- person monitoring lacking
- Meeting Virginia's SOLs
- Lack of internet service in some areas
- Reporting of completion and passing rates
- Ensuring of integrity of student’s work and testing
- Money coming from public school funds based on SOQ funding could be a “cash cow” for private corporations.

Examples
- Presently allows a 65% tax credit plus donors may take a state tax deduction and federal tax deduction for charitable donations.
- $25,000,000 cap for total donations.

- Individuals or corporations may donate from $500-$125,000.