

# 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**

**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.

Direct loss of public school funding to private schools

## 3. EISTC's

(Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credits)

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

Foundations may take a percentage- usually 10%.

Results in fewer tax dollars to public schools

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.

## 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.