
NEIFPE



Northeast Indiana
Friends
of
Public Education

Who are we?

- ❖ **Parents**
- ❖ **Concerned Citizens**
- ❖ **Teachers**
- ❖ **Grandparents**
- ❖ **Administrators**

The background features a vibrant rainbow arching across the frame. Overlaid on the rainbow are several colorful silhouettes of people in various jumping and dancing poses, suggesting a sense of joy and achievement. The overall color palette is bright and optimistic.

Vouchers

Known in Indiana as
“Choice Scholarships”

Definition:

- A voucher is a certificate issued by the Indiana Department of Education to parents to help defray the cost of tuition to a private school of their choice
- Students qualify for vouchers based on the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines



Are vouchers constitutional with the “separation of church and state” in the U.S. Constitution?

Yes.

1. U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of vouchers in a 5 to 4 decision in 2002.
2. Indiana Supreme Court upheld the voucher program by a 5 to 0 decision on 3/26/13.

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- The background features a vibrant rainbow arching across the top and bottom of the slide. In the center, there are several colorful silhouettes of people in various jumping or dancing poses, rendered in shades of blue, orange, yellow, and green. The overall scene is bright and celebratory.
- House Bill 1003 passed in 2011
 - **EXPANDED** in current legislature

What does the new legislation mean?

Under the original bill.....

- Students had to attend public school for one year to qualify for voucher

But under the new expansion...

- Students may qualify for voucher if their public school has an F grade
- Students with sibling using voucher in private school may qualify
- Students receiving tax credit scholarship of \$500 may qualify
- No need to attend public school at all!

What does the new legislation mean?

Under the original bill...

A voucher maximum was

- \$4500/year

But under the new expansion...

A voucher maximum is

- \$4700 in 2013-2014
- \$4800 in 2014-2015

What does the new legislation mean?

Total support for public schools and charters

FY2014 — \$6.622 billion

FY2015 — \$6.691 billion

Total support for vouchers

FY2014 — \$23 million

FY2015 — \$179 million

What does the new legislation mean?

Over a two-year period:

- Increase of \$69 million for public schools and charters serving 1.1 million children
- Increase of \$156 million for vouchers serving 9300+ children

What does the new legislation mean?

FY2014

FY2015

\$6.622 billion (for public schools and charters)

- **\$23 million** (for vouchers)

= **\$6.599 billion**

\$6.691 billion (for public schools and charters)

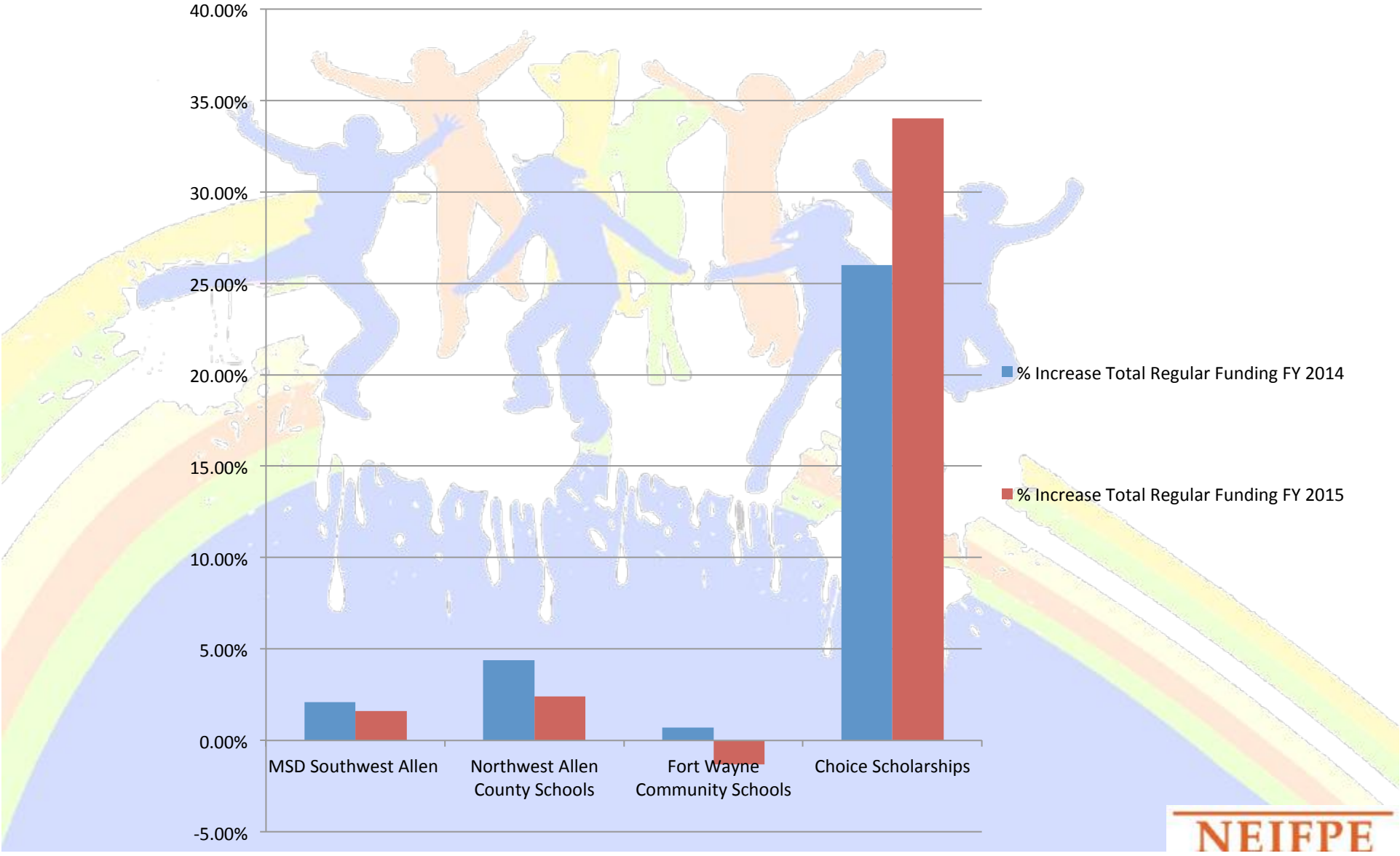
- **\$179 million** (for vouchers)

= **\$6.512 billion**

The Big Picture: What does all this mean?

Vouchers decrease the budgeted amount for public schools and charters by \$111 million over the two-year period 2013-2015.

What does the new legislation mean?



The Big Picture: What does all this mean?

According to the pro-voucher Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, more than 530,000 Indiana students (more than half of the state's student population in elementary and secondary schools) now qualify for vouchers!