

# WEST VIRGINIA

Overall Market Rating: **Limited Growth Possible**

West Virginia’s education savings account program, called the Hope Scholarship, went into effect in the 2022-23 school year. Initially limited to students who were previously enrolled in public schools, the program will accept applications from any K-12 student in the state for 2026-27. There is no budget cap. However, the maximum value of approximately \$5,400 per pupil (the projected amount for 2026-27) is low, and new private schools would need substantial and reliable tuition revenue and/or philanthropic funding to sustain themselves financially. With fewer than 125 private schools operating in the state, the ecosystem for new school formation is under-developed. To receive Hope funds, schools must administer a nationally normed student assessment annually. Students living in West Virginia may spend their Hope funds at out-of-state schools or education service providers.

Nearly 15,000 students received Hope Scholarships by the start of 2025-26. Students are allowed to apply throughout the school year, with midyear awards prorated. The state treasurer projected that close to 19,000 students ultimately will receive full or partial in 2025-26. In 2024-25, the state expended about \$43.5 million on Hope Scholarships, with \$32 million going to nonpublic schools (~6,500 pupils) and the remainder going to microschoools, education service providers and student reimbursements.

+ Best ✓ Fair - Inadequate	Program(s) Prioritize Low- Income HHs	Funding Is Adequate to Meet Demand (High or No Cap)	New Schools Eligible in First Year	Per-Pupil Amount Is Adequate	The Application Process Is Family-Friendly	There Is a Supportive Ecosystem for Private Schools
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>	-	+	✓	-	+	-

## K-12 Enrollment

Nearly 90% of West Virginia students attend traditional public schools. Private schools enroll about 5% of pupils, while the state’s nascent public charter sector enrolls fewer than 2%. The homeschooling population is bigger than the combination of charter and private enrollment. The total state population has declined by more than 5% since 2010.

WEST VIRGINIA 2025-26				
Total PK-12	Public District	Public Charter	Private (2024-25)	Homeschool (2024-25)
268,704	230,714 (86%)	4,243 (2%)	14,126 (5%)	19,621 (7%)

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## Choice Program Details

### Hope Scholarship

Eligibility	Amount	Participation	Other
Universal (effective for 2026-27)	Projected \$5,400 for 2026-27	19,000 <i>(estimated for 2025-26)</i> 40,000+ <i>(estimated for 2026-27, with lapse of the prior public-school enrollment requirement)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• While the legislature endeavors to budget for projected demand, there is technically no statutory cap.</li><li>• Hope funds can be used for private-school tuition, homeschooling expenses or other education-related services.</li><li>• The application portal remains open throughout the school year, with awards prorated accordingly.</li></ul>

Sources: State of West Virginia; [Hope Scholarship Annual Report](#)