

# EDUCATION FREEDOM

*Empowering families and educators to best meet kids' needs*

**ONLY 1-IN-4** fourth graders in Maine can read at grade level

**125% MORE** tax dollars are spent today than in 2000 to educate each Maine K-12 student

By its own metrics, the education system is failing, leaving future generations woefully unprepared for life while costing taxpayers more than ever before.

**Spending per student today is dramatically more than what it was in 2000**, even though 17% fewer kids attend Maine's public schools. Post-Covid, **families are clamoring for more accountability and more options.**

A recent national survey found that while fewer than 40% of K-12 parents believe education is customizable today, 77% believe it should be customizable. And three-quarters of Americans believe education should be **accountable to families** instead of state bureaucrats.

## The Bottom Line:

### **EVERY CHILD'S NEEDS ARE DIFFERENT**

Education is not one-size-fits-all, and Maine families know their kids best, so they should be trusted to design their children's education to best meet their needs.

## The Solution:

1. Offer families a state tax credit or flexible-use account to directly fund kids whose families choose to educate their children outside of their zip code assigned school.
2. Empower students to apply to attend the public school of their choice statewide.
3. Repeal limits on charter schools. Allow colleges and universities to authorize charters.
4. Roll back unnecessary mandates on education providers - including public schools - to encourage greater cooperation with families.