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*“There is not a single instance in history in which civil liberty was lost, and religious liberty preserved entire.”
John Witherspoon*

Advancing School Choice Through the Education Freedom Tax Credit

The newly established Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC) is [widely popular](#) as parents are learning more about the new school choice provision. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon has [called](#) it the “largest national investment in education choice.” The EFTC was included in the One Big Beautiful Bill (also known as the Working Families Tax Cut) that passed last summer. The provision allows a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to \$1,700 for donations made to scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) that, in turn, provide scholarships for educational expenses for K-12 students, including private school tuition. The SGOs can distribute scholarships to families in any state where the governor opts into the program. To date, [29 states](#) have opted into the program, meaning families in those states will be eligible to receive scholarships from SGOs. McMahon [explained](#) that “this program will help families afford key education services—like tutoring and scholarships—so they can tailor their child’s educational journey and access opportunities that meet their needs.” The effort to establish a national school choice program has been a years-long endeavor, supported by many school choice advocates, including the AACCS. In 2019, during President Trump’s first term, AACCS leadership anticipated the possibility of a federal tax credit scholarship program becoming a reality, and they established [Accord Kids](#), the SGO powered by the AACCS Children’s Scholarship Fund. The goal of Accord Kids is to support AACCS ministries and families and to provide more opportunities for families desiring Christian education for their children. In a recent episode of the [AACCS Today podcast](#), hosts Jamison Coppola and Matt Ticzkus discussed the new EFTC and Accord Kids, and the amazing potential the EFTC has to provide more school choice and Christian education for families across the country. To listen to this episode, please visit here: [In Accord: LEAD Conference Recap and the AACCS SGO](#).

Kentucky Legislature Overrides Veto of a Bill That Opts the State Into the School Choice Provision

This week, the Republican supermajority in the Kentucky legislature [overrode](#) the governor’s veto of a bill that allows scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) to distribute scholarships in the state under the Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC). As the AACCS has reported, any taxpayer can claim the EFTC by donating up to \$1,700 to an SGO. However, families can receive the scholarships only if they live in a state that has opted into the EFTC. The new [law](#) designates the Kentucky secretary of state, currently a Republican, as the official responsible for opting into the EFTC. Last week, Democrat Gov. Andy Beshear vetoed the bill and claimed that it would take away resources from public schools. “With House Bill 1, the supermajority is at it again, wanting to use a federal tax credit to divert public dollars to private schools,” [said](#) Beshear in his veto message. Supporters of the bill were quick to point out the illogic in Beshear’s argument. “If Kentucky refuses to opt in, our taxpayers can still claim the credit, but their donations will flow across state lines to support education elsewhere,” [said](#) Senate President Pro Tempore David Givens. He noted that scholarships can go to “a wide range of educational needs for students in public, private or homeschool settings.” On Tuesday, the Senate voted 31-5 to override the veto, and the House voted 77-14. Kentucky becomes the 29th state to indicate its intention to opt into the EFTC and the first state to override a governor’s veto of the EFTC.

Report Reveals How Teens View and Use AI

A recent [report by Pew Research](#) shows that a majority of teens use AI on a regular basis, with most usage going towards schoolwork and research. The survey was conducted last fall, questioning teens aged 13-17. According to the data, 57% of teens use AI to search for information, and 54% use it for help with their schoolwork. Close to half (47%) use AI for entertainment, and 42% use it to summarize a book, movie, or video. When asked how they use a chatbot for school, 48% said for researching a topic, 43% for help with a math problem, and 35% for editing their writing. Approximately two-thirds of teens think that their peers use AI for cheating in school. A smaller percentage of students report using AI for companionship (16%) and for emotional support (12%), causing concern among parents, educators, and policy analysts. “AI systems, however sophisticated, do not mentor. They do not model character or share hard-won experience. They produce responses based on data without a consistent moral framework,” [observes](#) Robert Maginnis of the Family Research Council. When teens were questioned whether they think AI will have a positive or negative effect on their futures, 36% believe it will have a positive effect, 15% a negative, and 32% believe both positive and negative. Teens believe the positive effects will include ease of getting information and making life easier, while the negative effects could include loss of creativity and critical thinking, and also loss of jobs. Maginnis [points out](#) that “the question before us is not whether our children will grow up alongside AI—they already are. The question is whether we intend to raise thinkers or whether we will drift into raising people who have simply learned to prompt.”

Education Resource: The Heritage Guide to Historic Sites

As America celebrates its 250th birthday, the Heritage Foundation has created the [Heritage Guide to Historic Sites](#), an online interactive map that provides information about historical battlefields, museums, and historical sites across the country. The guide evaluates each recognized site with a rating of A, B, or C that is determined by the historical accuracy of the operations and presentation of the history. The site provides a review of each location, along with recommendations of the best things to see at the landmark. To date, the guide has reviewed historical sites in all 50 states, with a plan for more reviews to come. “By visiting America’s most treasured historic sites, we remember the meritorious deeds of exceptional Americans that formed an exceptional nation and the unique contributions that each state brings to the union,” [explained](#) the creators of the website. The AACCS is a proud [endorser](#) of the resource as an exceptional educational tool and recommends the information to all who wish to visit historical sites in their travels this year and in celebration of our nation’s 250th birthday.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACCS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[The “Science” of Gender Ideology Is Crumbling: What’s Next?](#)

[Number of Americans with Biblical Worldview Remains Critically Low](#)

[The Idea that Changed American Education](#)

[American Heroes Student Art Contest—Deadline May 1](#)

[Bookmark Design Challenge: Celebrating America’s 250th—Deadline March 31](#)