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QuickPoint! – Give Oregon Kids the Power of Educational Choice, Like Kids in Florida

By Kathryn Hickok

Denisha Merriweather failed third grade twice. Today, she is finishing her master's degree, thanks to [Florida's Tax Credit Scholarship Program](#). The key to Denisha's success was her godmother's ability to remove Denisha from a school that was failing her, and to send her to the school that provided her with the support she needed.

On December 13, [a Florida appeals court reaffirmed](#) the groundbreaking program's constitutionality. This is a major victory for the 100,000 low-income Florida children and children with disabilities who are attending schools where they can thrive, thanks to scholarships.

A lawyer supportive of the court's ruling said, "...[T]hese students will not be forced, against the will of their parents, to return to whichever public school their ZIP Code dictates....This court correctly recognized that school choice programs expand opportunity and achievement for students, and without doing so at the expense of the public school system."

The one-size-fits-all, government-run school system isn't meeting the learning needs of all kids today. Oregon continues to have [the third-lowest graduation rate in the country](#). Handing more money to the same system won't change anything. But [giving parents the power of choice](#) in their children's education would change everything.

[Oregon students should be able to find](#) their own paths to success, just like kids in Florida.

Kathryn Hickok is Publications Director and Director of the Children's Scholarship Fund-Oregon program at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free market public policy research organization.

