



Education Savings Accounts Can Help Bullied Children

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Having the option to choose a new school may not be at the front of every parent's mind, but it's a serious concern when a child is being bullied. Earlier this month, the Heartland Institute, a think tank in Illinois, [published a commentary](#) on Missouri schools, citing data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found [23.3 percent](#) (see Table 31) of Missouri students reported being bullied on school property. Heartland goes on to propose a Child Safety Account, a form of an education savings account (ESA) for families experiencing bullying. An ESA provides funds to students to attend a school of their choice, it could be public, charter, private, virtual, or can be used for other educational needs like support services. Specifically, a Child Safety Account would be an ESA for a student to receive funding for their education because of a safety or bullying issue at their assigned public school.

A similar initiative in Florida, the Hope Scholarship program, supports [bullied students with vouchers](#) and could serve up to 5,800 students. Education Savings Accounts provide an opportunity to give families educational options for a myriad of reasons, bullying included. As [Show Me Institute](#) writers have argued, all students should be able to choose an education option where they learn best, and Missouri should pursue ESAs to do just that.

About the Author



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Abigail Burrola graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2018.

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<https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/school-choice/education-savings-accounts-can-help-bullied-children>

Links

[1] <https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/school-choice/education-savings-accounts-can-help-bullied-children>

[2] <https://www.heartland.org/publications-resources/publications/research--commentary-bullying-statistics-show-missouri-needs-child-safety-accounts>

[3] <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf>

[4] <https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2018-03-12/florida-becomes-first-state-to-offer-bullied-students-vouchers-for-private-school>

[5] <https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/school-choice/education-savings-accounts-path-student-success>

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