



Legislative Update

2023

## Legislative Week 7 (May 1-3 - Legislative Days 17-19)

### UPDATE: The PRICE Act

**BILL:** [SB202](#) Sen. Stutts & [HB295](#) Rep. Yarbrough

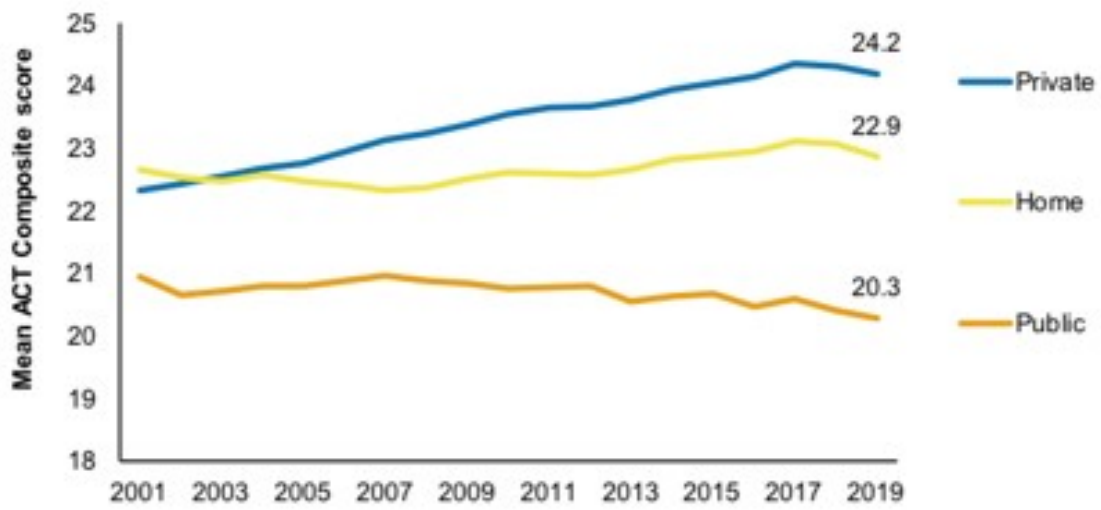
**BILL DESCRIPTION:** PRICE stands for *Parental Rights in Children's Education*. This bill would create a universal education savings account program that allows parents to choose the best education options that align with their family's values and are tailor-made to fit their educational needs. Parents can choose private, online schools, home-schooling, private tutors, or a combination. PRICE money follows the student. PRICE is a universal Education Savings Account (ESA) program. The ESA amount is based on the average state tax dollar amount per pupil—\$ 6,900 (2024-2025 School Year). When a public school student enrolls in the PRICE program, **the federal and local dollars stay with the school**. Read more bullets about the PRICE Act [here](#).

**BILL STATUS:** The House Education Policy Committee held a public hearing for the PRICE Act (Parental Rights In Children's Education). You can [watch it here](#). It begins at the 53 minute mark. Eagle Forum Executive Director Becky Gerritson testified and the graphs she showed to the members can be seen below. (Source for ACT scores found [here](#). Source for graphs with AL test data found [here](#).)

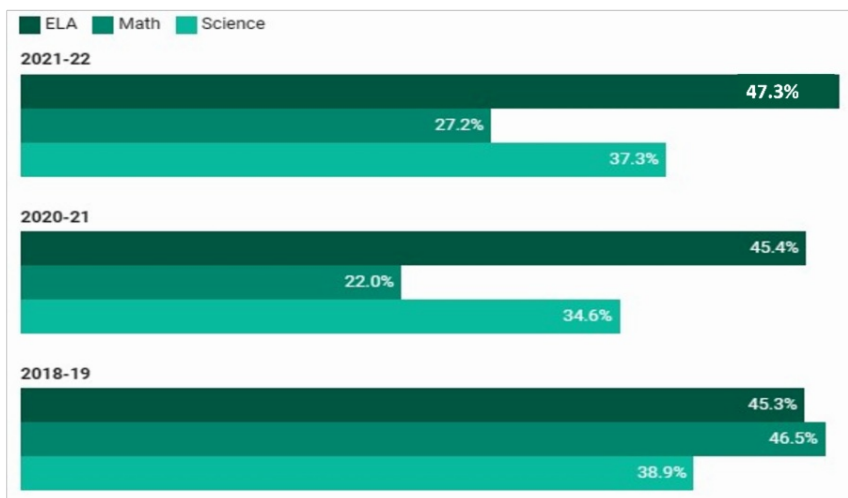
**URGENT ACTION:** Next Wednesday, May 10th the Senate and House committees will vote on whether the PRICE Act can proceed to full debate in both chambers. Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee will meet at 10:00AM on the 8th floor. The House Education Policy Committee will meet at 1:30PM in room 206. Please [contact the House and Senate Committee members here](#) and ask them to give the PRICE Act a favorable report so that it can go to the floor for debate! Come to the State House and lobby your legislators and watch the committee meetings.

### GRAPHS USED IN PRICE ACT PUBLIC HEARING

**This first graph shows that private & home-schoolers out-perform public schooled students.**

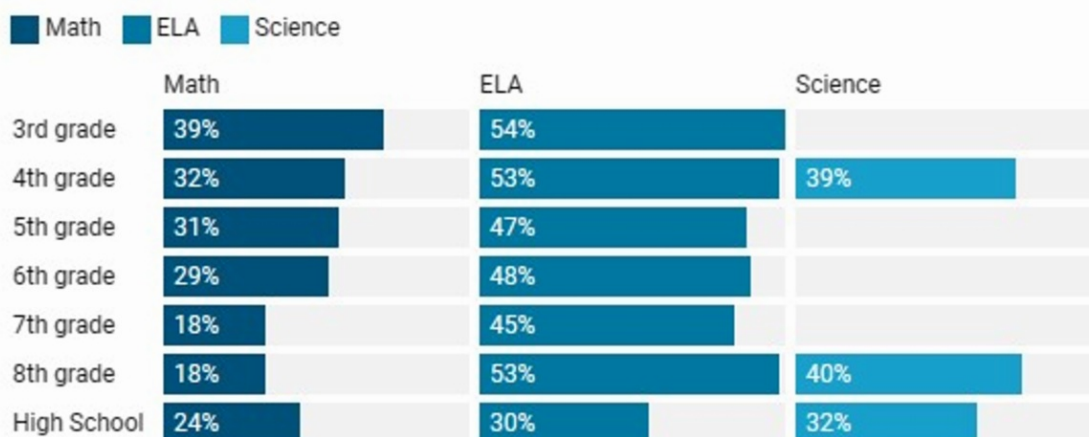


**Fewer Than 50% of AL Students Are Proficient in all 3 Subjects Tested**



**This graph: The longer students stay in the AL public system the worse their student test scores.**

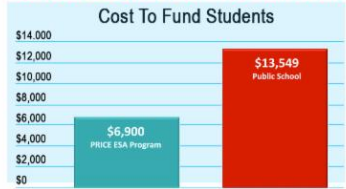
**Alabama's grade-level 2022 test scores**



# THE PRICE IS RIGHT!

PARENTAL RIGHTS IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

## FUND STUDENTS NOT SYSTEMS



Projected spending based upon 2024-2025 school year\* Public spending is combined federal, state, local dollars. PRICE ESA Program cost from SB202/HS295 as introduced. If a student enters PRICE program the federal & local dollars stay with the school. \*<http://educationdata.org/public-spending-statistics/alabama>

## EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT

PRICE is a Universal Educational Savings Account program (ESA). The ESA amount is based on the average amount of state tax dollars used per pupil.

**\$6,900/STUDENT/YEAR**

Parents will be able to apply after passage of the bill (SB202/HS295) and the program will begin in the fall of 2024.

## FAMILIES DECIDE

Parents are allowed to direct tax-payer dollars to education programs in pre-K and higher ed through Head Start and Pell Grants. They choose where to use those funds (public, private, religious, or non-religious institutions). They're not forced to take those funds to their residentially assigned government-run provider. PRICE applies this same logic to K-12 education funds.

All education service providers, vendors and expenses must be approved. The online app ensures that funds are used for their intended purpose while virtually eliminating the risk of fraud, waste, or abuse.

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

Every penny can be tracked, and audits can be done at the push of a button.

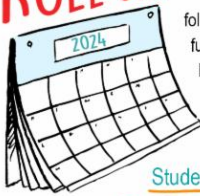
**PRICE CAN MOVE THE NEEDLE ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT\***

31 of 33 empirical studies find that choice improves academic outcomes at public schools. PRICE will provide the proper incentive of competition needed for our public system to improve.

**PRICE WON'T CAUSE MASS EXODUS\***

Historically accurate data shows that only **1-3%** of eligible students participate in school choice programs.

**PRICE FUNDS ROLL OVER**



ESA funds not fully used in one school year will roll over into the following year. No more funds are added to the ESA after graduation, but any remaining funds can be used until the age of 21.

Students can use funds for college, trade school etc.

**PROTECTS PRIVATE & HOMESCHOOL AUTONOMY**

The PRICE Act was carefully written to ensure that nothing changes the current laws regulating non-public education entities (private, church, parochial, religious, and home-based schools), including accreditation and assessments.

**PRICE DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE**

All students can apply for this statewide ESA program no matter zip code, income status, ethnicity, or ability level.

**MORE PRICE FUNDS CAN BE USED FOR THAN TUITION & FEES**

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Textbooks               | School Uniforms      |
| Individual Classes      | College Tuition      |
| Tutoring Services       | Therapies Including: |
| Athletics               | Occupational         |
| Art & Music             | Behavioral           |
| Literature              | Physical             |
| Computer Hardware       | Speech               |
| Technological Devices   | Language             |
| Software & Applications | Audiology, etc.      |

PRICE allows parents to choose the best education options that align with their family's values and are tailor-made to fit their educational needs.

**PRICE EMPOWERS PARENTS.**



**REMAIN AT PUBLIC SCHOOL**

\*<http://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/A-Win-Win-Solution-The-Empirical-Evidence-on-School-Choice.pdf>  
<https://www.federationforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/AFC-School-Choice-Research-Summary.pdf>

Prepared by Eagle Forum of Alabama  
 AlabamaEagle.org

## GOOD NEWS THIS WEEK

### Banning CRT

**HB7** (Rep. Oliver) A bill to ban divisive concepts like Critical Race Theory in K-12 schools and government agencies has already passed the full House. This week it passed the Senate State Government Committee and is headed to the floor for debate.

### Protecting Women's Sports

**HB261** (Rep. Dubose) The bill that would protect women's sports in higher ed by allowing only biological women to complete in women's sports programs passed the Senate this week and is headed to the Governor for her signature!

### Preventing Ballot Harvesting

[HB209](#) (Rep. Kiel) This bill would prevent ballot harvesting. On Thursday, it passed the full House and is headed to the Senate.

---

## **NEW BILLS THIS WEEK**

### **Protecting Children from Drag Queen Shows**

**Bill:** [HB401](#) Rep. Mooney

**BILL DESCRIPTION:** Under existing law, the use of any premises to distribute obscene material to minors is a public nuisance. This bill would further provide that the use of any premises to distribute to minors, material that is harmful to minors is a public nuisance. Drag queen performances would not be allowed in venues where children are present.

**BILL STATUS:** This bill was just introduced and has been referred to the House State government Committee.

**EF's POSITION:** We support this bill!

### **Banning ESG Scores (social credit scores)**

**Bill:** [HB188](#) Rep. Brown

**BILL DESCRIPTION:** ESG scores are similar to "social credit scores". This bill would prohibit the consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria when awarding a public contract and would require a responsible bidder, as a condition of being awarded a public contract, to certify, under penalty of perjury, that its employees will not be subject to a personal ESG rating as a basis of hiring, firing, or evaluation.

**BILL STATUS:** HB188 passed out of the House Commerce and Small Business Committee and is headed to the House floor.

**EF's POSITION:** We support this bill.

### **Rescind Calls for an Article V Convention**

**BILL:** [HJR104](#) Rep. Harrison

**BILL DESCRIPTION:** This House Joint Resolution would rescind all previous resolutions of the Alabama legislature which *request* Congress to call a convention pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.

**BILL STATUS:** The resolution can be sent to the full House for debate at the call of the Rules Chairman.

**EF's POSITION:** For decades, Eagle Forum has supported legislation to rescind any and all calls for an Article V Convention. When Alabama legislators passed the calls for a Con Con on various single issues, they were promised a convention limited to a single issue and ratification by 38 state legislatures. However, just two months ago [H. Con. Resolution 24](#) was proposed in Congress and supported by Convention of States proponents. It provides ample evidence that Alabama legislators could have nothing to do with the call, the delegate selection process, proposing amendments, or ratifications. This Congressional call (under the guise of a "Fiscal Responsibility Amendment") is unlimited ("plenary"). It is NOT a call for a limited convention controlled by state legislatures, as promised. The whole Constitution is at stake. Read ["Caution & The Constitution-Key Points"](#).

more Eagle Forum's resources on the topic [here](#).

## [Amending the Uniform Commercial Code \(Central Bank Digital Currency\)](#)

**Bill:** [HB348](#) Rep. Faulkner

**BILL DESCRIPTION:** This bill would provide a substantial revision to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) by adopting the Uniform Commercial Code Amendments (2022), which includes a new UCC article that governs the transfer of property rights in certain intangible digital assets (controllable electronic records).

**BILL STATUS:** Eagle Forum was able to work with the bill sponsor and the Secretary of State's office to insert specific language to strengthen the bill before it passed out of the House Judiciary Committee. It is headed to the House floor for debate.

**EF's POSITION:** This is a complicated subject but one that eagle Forum has been engaged in at the federal level which has prompted other Eagle Forum organizations across the country to encourage their legislators to ensure they have the strongest language to protect their state. See more details about this issue and [what lawmakers need to know](#). Read what Congressman Davidson had to say about it [here](#).

---

**See Our Previous Weekly Updates [here](#).**



[Find and Attend Eagle Forum meetings across the state here](#) Keep checking back as new meetings are added weekly.

---

Please Click To Support Our Work

[www.AlabamaEagle.org](http://www.AlabamaEagle.org) Phone: 205-879-7096



Eagle Forum of Alabama | 4200 Stone River Cir, Birmingham, AL 35213

[Unsubscribe becky@alabamaeagle.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [becky@alabamaeagle.org](mailto:becky@alabamaeagle.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!