

# The Necessity of Evidence Documentation

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September 30, 2015

Once Nevada's recently enacted universal Education Savings Account (ESA) law emerges from the shadow of the ACLU legal challenge, the availability of the \$5000 - \$5700 annual deposits (more for special ed children) may begin to drive entrepreneurial initiative-based change in the menu of schooling options. [May?](#) I'm hedging my prediction because Nevada is a mostly sparsely populated state. Most of the state cannot support very many schooling options. Most of the menu change will be concentrated in the mostly densely populated parts of the state, especially the Las Vegas - Henderson area. Recognition of that is a critical part of the evidence documentation process. To prevent negative spin through data loss/aggregation, the data generated by the ESA's impact on entrepreneurial initiative needs to be disaggregated into sub-state units. County may be too small. Metro area and multi-county region are likely the optimal sized places. Also, we need to document changes in schooling patterns, not just new school start-ups. Existing schools may expand, contract, and/or change their offerings, and the ESA will likely increase use of online instructional approaches provided by vendors based outside of Nevada.

Luckily, EDCHOICE recently surveyed [Nevada's private school sector](#). Those data can serve as a critical benchmark from which to document what changes as the ESA becomes widely known, and schooling producers and consumers adapt to it. This is especially important because it will immediately refute the periodic claims that a state's existing schooling options and excess capacity define the potential to provide school choice. A state's existing schooling options and excess capacity are important only when legislators enact narrowly targeted, restriction-laden school choice programs; something they should do only when that is all that is politically feasible.

The children of every part of every state need a lot more school choice – transformational school choice – than they currently have. Nevada’s schoolchildren will be the first to possibly see a significant increase and diversification of the schooling options available to them. The change in the Nevada menu needs to be carefully and thoroughly documented.