



# HOW DO VOUCHERS HELP SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS?

Close evaluation of private school application forms shows that private schools are willing and able to take special needs students. Many Utahns may not be aware that Utah already is using a successful voucher program to meet the needs of special education children.

**FACT: UTAH HAS A CURRENT VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

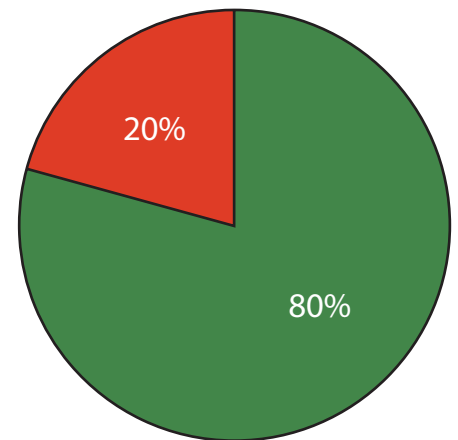


Thankfully, Utah takes care of its special needs students. Students with disabilities are currently served under the Carson Smith Scholarship voucher program. Carson Smith provides a voucher to special needs students to attend an eligible private school of their choice. According to the Utah State Office of Education, for 2006-2007, special needs students received a maximum voucher of \$6,042.50. The rules governing eligibility of private schools under Carson Smith are similar to the eligibility rules found in HB 148, the new school vouchers law.

Currently, forty (40) private schools in Utah are eligible to accept Carson Smith students. Eighty percent (80%) of Carson Smith-eligible schools are also potentially eligible to accept voucher students under HB 148, as shown in the chart. Furthermore, 91 percent (91%) of all potential voucher-eligible schools

have no prohibitive admission requirements for special needs students, suggesting that the vast majority of private schools are willing to accept and teach special needs students.

Carson Smith-Eligible Schools



■ Eligible for Vouchers  
■ Not Eligible for Vouchers