



## The Nevada Policy Research Institute

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Contact Andy Matthews  
(702) 222-0642

### **School choice and tax credits could save Nevada a billion dollars over the next 10 years**

Nevada could save up to \$31 million in the next biennium by implementing a parental school choice and tax credit plan, a new report says. The study comes right after Governor Gibbons' State of the State address, which included his budget plan to reduce Nevada's expenditures.

Andrew J. Coulson, director of the Center for Educational Freedom at the Cato Institute, introduced his new study to the Silver State at an Education Policy Summit this week in Las Vegas. The Nevada Policy Research Institute hosted his presentation at its first Education Policy Summit.

Coulson's study calculates the likely fiscal impact on Nevada if it were to emulate other states and provide tax credits to corporations and individuals who gave donations to scholarship-granting organizations.

"It is apparent from the results of this study that a Public Education Tax Credit program would generate very substantial savings for Nevada, and that these savings are robust to a variety of alternative assumptions," Coulson writes. "The expected savings are centered on roughly one billion dollars over the program's first 10 years, and the annual savings figure is expected to rise substantially over time, reaching \$229 million in year 10, \$426 million in year 15, and \$520 million in year 20."

He adds that a Public Education Tax Credit program presents an attractive alternative at a time when most states, including Nevada, face significant challenges in order to balance their budgets. "It would not only save taxpayers a considerable sum of money but would actually *expand* the range of educational options available to Nevada families," he writes.

The full report is online at: [http://npri.org/docLib/20090113\\_Choosing\\_to\\_Save.pdf](http://npri.org/docLib/20090113_Choosing_to_Save.pdf).

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