

# One Hundred Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2024

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB939

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**Chairperson: Senator Dave Murman**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: February 05, 2024**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 939 is known as the My Student, My Choice Act. Because student tuition dollars would follow the student, families would be provided with more opportunities for educating their children.

The bill establishes the Follow the Student Fund. The State Treasurer (or a third party agency) administers the fund. In order to participate in the program parents must apply for a student account and sign a contract. Student accounts are then set up, deposits are made at the beginning of each semester, and tuition payments are made by the State Treasurer to schools on a monthly basis. Student tuition for those attending a K-12 public school is based upon the adjusted average per pupil cost plus two percent. Those attending private schools receive an amount equivalent to half the adjusted average per pupil cost.

Provisions are made in the bill for students transferring between schools mid-semester and out-of-state. Participation in the program is voluntary for students attending a private school and private schools are not obligated to participate in the program or to accept payments for tuition from the Follow the Student Fund. The State is strictly forbidden from altering the curriculum or beliefs of a private school

Parents of private school students may request a smart card from the State Treasurer to be used for purchasing educational products. The bill also creates the Private School Expenditure Board, which oversees all vendors for private school students.

School boards would be allowed to impose a property tax levy, provided that all monies raised are used exclusively for special needs students. Otherwise, all monies transferred into the Follow the Student Fund comes from the State's General Fund.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Steve Erdman**