

Protect Public Education: Oppose Trump / DeVos Agenda



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NEA believes in a strong and inclusive public education system that ensures that all students can succeed regardless of their ZIP code. The Trump / DeVos budget proposal drastically cuts public education while funding private school vouchers that harm students, communities, and undermine the public schools that educate 9 out of 10 students.

- ▶ **The Trump/DeVos budget proposal would slash education funding by \$9 billion.**
 - This rollback would set education funding (excluding Federal Pell Grants) to pre-2002 levels in current dollars, or before the onset of the No Child Left Behind Act. Public preK-12 and postsecondary enrollment has increased by 8.6 million students since 2001.
 - While the initial budget offering was short on details, it is long on ways to undermine public education. Specifically, the Trump/DeVos budget adds \$1.4 billion for private school vouchers and related schemes, with plans to ramp up to \$20 billion.
 - Meanwhile, the budget eliminates after-school programs, professional development for educators, class size reduction funding, and deeply slashes student grant aid, Pell Grants, TRIO, and GEAR UP.

- ▶ **Regardless of what they are called, vouchers, tuition tax credits, and education savings accounts rob public schools of vital funding and resources.**
 - We need to ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested in public schools – not shifted into vouchers for religious and other private schools – so that every child in every community has the opportunity for a great public education at a neighborhood public school.
 - Vouchers take scarce funding away from public schools and give it to private schools that are unaccountable to the public. Private schools are not required to meet any public standards for accounting, education or transparency.
 - At a time when our nation and our state are continuing to face serious budget challenges, the last thing we need to do is spend scarce taxpayer dollars on vouchers for private and religious schools that can pick and choose students based on economic status, academic achievement, disabilities, or even gender.
 - Vouchers only weaken our public schools, and even with vouchers, most parents still would not have the money to pay for private schools. We simply cannot afford to fund two different education systems— one private and one public—on the taxpayer’s dime.

- ▶ **Instead of taking away funds from our public schools and handing it over to private schools, we should**
 - Get serious about doing what works and invest in neighborhood public schools so that students have inviting classrooms, a well-rounded curriculum, class sizes that are small enough for one-on-one attention, and support services such as health care, nutrition and after-school programs for students who need them.