

# Oppose Private School Vouchers



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**A child's opportunity for success should not be left to chance--whether it's a charter school lottery or a private school voucher--both are risky propositions with no assurances. What every child needs is a quality, well-equipped school right in his neighborhood where he can learn, be inspired, and thrive.**

- ▶ **Regardless of what they're called, vouchers, education savings accounts, and tuition tax credits rob public schools of vital funding and resources.**
  - **Vouchers** take dollars from our public schools to **fund private schools at taxpayer expense.**
  - **Education savings accounts (ESAs)** divert taxpayer dollars into accounts parents can use for educational purposes, **including private and religious school tuition.**
  - **Tuition tax credits (TTCs)** are tax giveaways for corporations and individuals for donations used to fund vouchers.
  - **Ultimately, diverting funds to private schools reduces the revenue available for the public schools that educate 9 out of 10 students.**
  
- ▶ **We need to ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested in public schools – not shifted into vouchers – so that every child in every community has the opportunity for a great public education.**
  - 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 states 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, disability status, 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 them 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.
  - **We should not spend taxpayer money on vouchers when there are many, proven ways to improve public schools.** No matter how you feel about vouchers, there are many ways to improve public schools that are simply higher priorities.