

# Just the **FACTS:** An NEA-NH Factsheet

## Do school vouchers help kids in “struggling” schools?

**No.** Vouchers, often misleadingly called “scholarships,” divert tax dollars meant for public education to private schools that are not accountable to the public and generally do not serve the interests of struggling, low-income students.

### This is why.

#### Vouchers are a “coupon program” for private education.

Families who already send their children to private schools are often those who apply for and get the vouchers.

#### Vouchers don’t expand education opportunities for low income students.

The amount of money contributed by the voucher is hardly ever enough to pay for full private school tuition. Private schools are not obligated to take vouchers. Often those that do are under enrolled and struggling.

#### Vouchers promote discrimination.

Despite receiving tax dollars, private voucher schools are often free to turn away students who are gay or transgender and students who don’t subscribe to a religious doctrine.

#### Vouchers violate separation of church and state.

Once money leaves the public system, there’s no public accountability for what the school teaches to students, including religious doctrine such as biblically inspired explanations for the origin of the universe and life and views of American history that distort the truth about slavery and the importance of civil disobedience in a democracy.

#### Vouchers don’t improve opportunities for struggling students.

Private schools can cherry pick who they want to educate by limiting services for students with learning disabilities and enforcing strict academic or discipline entry requirements.

What Privitizers Believe	What We Believe
School vouchers increase education opportunities for students.	School vouchers create opportunities for private, unaccountable schools to obtain tax dollars.
School vouchers provide students a pathway out of poverty.	School vouchers provide those families who already have the means to attend private schools a government subsidy.
School vouchers are a solution for families in need of better schools	School vouchers lower the quality of education for all students and diminish the capacity of the entire education system.

### Bottom Line

Voucher programs, in all their many forms, are not a solution for struggling students and families who want better education opportunities. The overall negative effects of vouchers on public school communities, especially the least well-served communities, negate any positive effects vouchers may have on an isolated family or small population of students. What’s needed instead are policies that address inequities in our public education system and provide more education opportunities for all students. Vouchers are a gift of taxpayer funds to private and religious schools that if expanded will cost American taxpayers billions of dollars.

**Let’s stop draining our public schools and work together to strengthen them.**