

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

The Truth About SB 193 and Vouchers

NEA-NH believes in a strong and inclusive public education system that ensures all students can succeed.

SB 193 undermines the public schools that educate 9 out of every 10 students in New Hampshire.

Here are five things to remember about SB 193 and to include in messages and conversations:

Point 1:

Don't be fooled. SB 193 diverts tax dollars to pay private school tuition, ultimately reducing the revenue available for public education and raising local property taxes to pay for students to attend non-public schools.

Point 2:

There is no valid evidence that schemes like SB 193 improve the performance of either the students receiving vouchers or those left behind in de-funded public schools.

Point 3:

The simple fact is, vouchers take dollars from our public schools to fund private schools at taxpayer expense. **Every school district in New Hampshire will lose state funding if SB 193 passes.**

Point 4:

SB 193 is the latest in a long list of schemes that have diverted attention from what our children and our schools really need— programs and funding to recruit, train, and retain the best teachers; smaller classes so they can devote enough attention to each child; high-quality early childhood education programs so children come to school ready to learn; tutoring to ensure that those who fall behind aren't left behind, and the active involvement of parents and the community. **All students have the right to a great public school, and it is with these kinds of investments—not education tax subsidies—that we will achieve this goal.**

Point 5:

Contact your elected officials often asking them to oppose SB 193 and all efforts to de-fund New Hampshire's public schools. We shouldn't be spending taxpayer money on vouchers when there are many proven ways to improve public schools.

Regardless of what they are called, vouchers, education savings accounts, tuition tax credits, and other related initiatives rob public schools of vital funding and resources at a time when the majority of Granite Staters believe schools need more funding to help prepare our students for the future.

Will SB 193 save money?

No. The voucher program created by SB 193 increases education costs to New Hampshire property taxpayers by forcing them to fund a parallel school system that drains money from what's available to serve all students. SB 193 adds extra layers of administrative costs and makes education funds far less transparent and accountable. The result of both programs is more money going to more service providers instead of directly to students and classrooms.

Will SB 193 help kids in “struggling” schools?

No. SB 193 diverts 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.

Voucher programs, like SB 193, are not a solution for struggling students and families who want better education opportunities. The overall negative effects of vouchers on New Hampshire's public schools, 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.

SB 193 is a gift of property taxpayer funds to private and religious schools that will cost New Hampshire public schools and communities millions of dollars.

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