



Vouchers: The answer is still NO

All school privatization schemes — traditional vouchers, educational savings accounts (ESAs), tax credits and virtual vouchers — hand out tax dollars to a few students with little or no accountability and no evidence they improve educational quality.

Private school vouchers strip students of their civil rights protections

- Vouchers and private schools were used for years to perpetuate segregation.
- The Texas Constitution makes no provision for private schools but requires the Legislature to maintain a system of free public schools.
- All protections against discrimination of students based on religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, sex and disability disappear in private schools.

Vouchers do not give families true choice

- Private schools have no obligation to enroll any student. The choice belongs to the school, not the parent.
- Vouchers, ESAs or tax credit scholarships would not give middle- or low-income families a choice of schools because they would pay for only a small cost of the average tuition of private schools and would not cover transportation expenses. The families who would benefit are those who are already able to place their child in a private school.
- Private schools do not typically admit students with low-incidence disabilities or discipline issues.
- In private schools, families forfeit all rights to access their children's education records, the right to have records amended and the right to control the disclosure of personally identifiable records.
- Private schools have no obligation to inform parents about what rights they will be losing or what that may mean for their student.

Vouchers would take tax dollars from our already underfunded public schools

- Texas public schools, where the vast majority of students will continue to be educated, are underfunded. Texas already spends hundreds of dollars less per student than the national average.
- The federal government requires states to maintain finances to serve all students in need of special education services in the public school system; the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that Texas is not spending enough on special education students.
- Texas should be spending more money on public schools, not diverting resources to private schools.
- Private schools can remove a student at any time without recourse but are under no obligation to return voucher funds to the state.

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