



5 MILLION REASONS VOUCHERS WON'T GET THE JOB DONE

Texas public schools educate 5 million students.

In terms of meeting that goal, school vouchers aren't a solution - they're a distraction.

Vouchers are for the few, not the many. School vouchers benefit a small handful of students while doing nothing for the majority of Texas students in our public schools. There simply aren't enough private schools to make a dent. While public schools educate 5 million Texas students, private schools in Texas only educate 313,360 according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Vouchers do not improve student achievement. Study after study has concluded school vouchers do not result in improved student achievement over traditional public schools. After reviewing the research, the Center for Education Policy concluded, "studies have generally found no clear advantage in academic achievement for students attending private schools with vouchers."

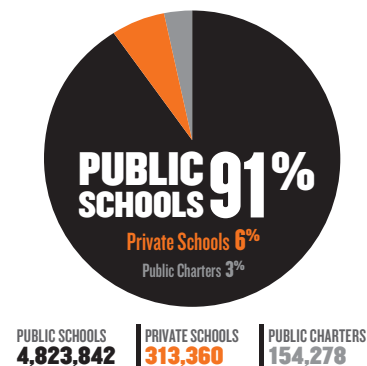
Tax credit scholarships use state tax dollars to send students to private schools. Under these schemes, a corporation is given a dollar-for-dollar credit against its state taxes (in addition to the federal deduction it would receive already) for providing money to fund private school tuitions.

We call these Texas Two Step vouchers. The extra shuffle step of the tax credit is designed to avoid the difficult legal and political issues of giving state funds directly to private schools. The impact on state revenue is the same as if the Comptroller had signed the check.

Choice Exists in Texas Public Schools:

According to a survey conducted by Raise Your Hand Texas of 66 of the largest school districts in the state by enrollment, 321,196 students in these districts are already attending school on a campus or in a program other than their neighborhood school - roughly the same number of students educated in the all of the private schools in Texas put together!

WHO EDUCATES 5 MILLION TEXAS STUDENTS?



TYPES OF SCHOOL VOUCHERS

School vouchers (AKA, Taxpayer Savings Grants, Opportunity Scholarships, School of Last Resort vouchers):

Traditional school vouchers are payments or reimbursements using state tax dollars that are given directly to parents as subsidies to pay tuition at private schools.

"Stealth" or "Neo-Vouchers" (AKA, Tax Credit Scholarships, Education Tax Credits, Tuition Tax Credits or Tuition Affordability):

These school vouchers are disguised as philanthropy. They provide an individual or corporate tax credit - usually a dollar-for-dollar credit against state taxes owed - for contributions to either private schools, or to nonprofit organizations, to pay for tuitions at private schools.

Virtual Schools:

Private, for-profit virtual education providers often try to get funds directly from the state, rather than through contracts with districts or charters. This is just another way to funnel public funds to private entities.

TAKE ACTION Here's what the Texas legislature can do to keep public schools strong:

Whether they call them Taxpayer Savings Grants, Tax Credit Scholarships, School of Last Resort vouchers or any other creative name -

OPPOSE SCHOOL VOUCHERS IN ANY FORM!