



Vouchers: Unwise, Unworkable and Unfair

While the state cannot find the money to educate the more than four million children in Texas public schools, some have imprudently proposed a venture to divert taxpayer money to private schools that are not accountable to the taxpayers.

Some proponents argue that vouchers would give parents greater educational choice for their children. This is not so. Instead, data indicate that:

- Private schools, not parents, have the ultimate choice about who enrolls in private schools;
- Texas private schools can only absorb a very small number of new students, giving no "choice" to most parents;
- Private schools are not accountable to the public for their actions or results;
- Texans would have to raise even more taxes to finance already under-funded public schools; and
- Vouchers will not provide a better education for the 94 percent of Texas children who attend locally-controlled public schools.

Vouchers are an unwise, unworkable and unfair scheme that would create a dual system of education – separate and unequal. Vouchers would weaken, not strengthen, neighborhood public schools that are accountable to us all.

People of all races and faiths have stood and stand for equitable, excellent and accountable public schools that serve all children regardless of background, ability or religious affiliation. For the sake of all children and for a vital Texas, the challenge is to strengthen, not dismantle, public education.

We ask you to join us in fighting for children and assuring that public dollars continue funding accountable public schools.

Sponsored by the Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Public Education.

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You can also get more information by contacting IDRA at 210.444.1710 or www.idra.org.

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