

Vouchers and Similar Schemes Leave Students Behind



NEA believes in a strong and inclusive public education system that ensures that all students can succeed. Vouchers, education savings accounts, and tuition tax credits harm students, communities, and undermine the public schools that educate 9 out of every 10 students. There is no valid evidence that such schemes improve the performance of either the students receiving them or those left behind in 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.**
 - **Vouchers** take dollars from our public schools to **fund private schools at taxpayer expense.**
 - **Education savings accounts (ESAs)** divert taxpayer dollars into accounts parents can use for educational purposes, **including private and religious school tuition.**
 - **Tuition tax credits (TTCs)** authorize tax credits for donations that are used to fund vouchers. **Ultimately, these schemes reduce the revenue available for public education.**

- ▶ **These programs ultimately deprive students of the rights and protections guaranteed in public schools.**
 - **Despite receiving public money,** private and charter schools that participate in vouchers programs are not subject to the same civil rights laws, and do not face the same accountability and transparency standards that must schools must meet, including those in Title VI, Title IX, and IDEA.
 - **Students with special needs who use vouchers lose many rights granted by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)** and may not have the protection of an individualized education plan.

- ▶ **Vouchers harm students who are most in need by taking critical resources away from our neighborhood public schools.**
 - Vouchers do not create choice for parents, but rather choice for private schools — **they can reject students based on economic status, academic achievement, disabilities, English proficiency, immigration status, sexual orientation, or even gender.**
 - **Vouchers do not reduce education costs.** Rather than reduce government spending on education, vouchers, ESAs, and TTCs vouchers create a dual system in **which the taxpayer supports one public and accountable system and another private and unaccountable one.**
 - As public schools are starved of resources **they lose support** and the ability to provide **great public schools for every student regardless of ZIP code is threatened.**