

## NCPE: National Coalition for PUBLIC EDUCATION

[www.NCPEcoalition.org](http://www.NCPEcoalition.org)

(LWVUS is a member of the NCPE Coalition)

**Private school vouchers** take many names, including “scholarship” programs, tuition tax credits, education savings accounts, and portability schemes. Regardless of what they are called, they use public dollars to fund private schools and divert scarce resources away from the education system that serves 90% of American children.

1. Private school vouchers undermine public schools by diverting desperately needed resources away from the public school system, which accepts all students, to fund the education of a few, select voucher students. Given the fiscal constraints at the federal, state and local level we simply cannot afford to fund two different education systems—public and private—on our taxpayers’ dime.

2. Private school vouchers do not save taxpayer money. In voucher programs, the public schools from which students leave for private voucher schools are spread throughout a school district. The reduction in students from each public school, therefore, is usually negligible and does not decrease operating costs of those public schools. That is one of the reasons why some voucher programs have resulted in multi-million dollar deficits and tax increases.

3. Private school vouchers do not improve academic achievement.

4. Private school vouchers do not lead to improvements in public schools.

There are many, proven ways to improve public schools such as reducing class sizes, offering a well-rounded curriculum and increasing parental engagement.

5. Private school vouchers do not offer real choice.

...most states allow private schools to accept taxpayer dollars but still reject students...for a variety of reasons. And, even with vouchers, most parents still would not have the money to pay for private schools.

6. Private vouchers fail to provide accountability to taxpayers. Most voucher programs lack accountability measures, and according to studies of voucher programs, many also lack proper oversight to ensure they meet the minimal standards that do exist.

7. Private school vouchers do not provide students with the same rights and protections they would otherwise have in public schools, such as those with Title VI, Title IX, the IDEA, Title II of the American Disabilities Act, and Every Student Succeeds Act.

8. Private school vouchers violate the fundamental principle of religious freedom because they fund religious education with taxpayer funds.

9. Private voucher schools do not adequately serve students with disabilities, often failing to admit them or provide them the same quality and quantity of services available to students in public schools, including those mandated under each student’s individualized plan (IEP)

10. Private school vouchers do not adequately serve low-income students because the cost of tuition and fees at schools that accept vouchers generally exceeds the amount of the voucher, making voucher schools unaffordable for most low-income families.

11. Private school vouchers often fund poor quality schools.

*The missions of NCPE's member organizations greatly vary, yet we are united in our position that Congress should not expand existing or create new federal voucher programs.*