**Spotlight on Vouchers**

- **President Obama Does Not Support School Vouchers.** In 2011, when Congress was pushing to extend the controversial D.C. school voucher program, the President stated that “[p]rivate school vouchers are not an effective way to improve student achievement.”[1] President Obama also believes that vouchers are not a long-term answer to the educational challenges that face public schools.[2]

---

- **Governor Perry is a Long Time Supporter of Private School Vouchers.** As Governor, Rick Perry was an advocate of using taxpayer money to send children to private schools.[1] During a special legislative session in Texas, he publicly stated he would like to see a school voucher bill emerge, pointing out he is “...for a public school choice pilot program, always have been.”[4] One of Perry’s closest political supporters is James Leininger, an avid proponent of private school vouchers.[5]

- **Newt Gingrich Called Vouchers ‘Pell Grants for Kids.’** Gingrich strongly supports school vouchers. During a Republican primary debate in California, Gingrich stated his “personal preference would be to have a Pell Grant for K-12 so that every parent could pick, with their child, any school they wanted to send them to, public or private, and enable them to have the choice.”[6]

- **Governor Romney Supports Means-Tested School Voucher Programs.** In 1994, as a candidate for U.S. Senate, Mitt Romney pledged to vote to establish a means-tested school voucher program to allow students to attend the public or private school of their choice.[7]

**NEA BELIEVES...**

- Launching a voucher program that creates taxpayer-funded subsidies for private schools is a bad idea. Instead, we should be investing in our local public schools to improve the quality of education and help our children compete successfully in the fast-changing economy.

- Instead of taking money from the public schools that 90 percent of our children attend, we should be investing in reducing class sizes, increasing parental involvement, and expanding students’ access to high-level math and science courses. These steps are vital to providing an excellent education and preparing our children to compete for jobs of the future.

- When public schools are struggling to provide the services students need to succeed, the last thing we need is to spend scarce taxpayer funds on private schools.

- We must make our children’s education a priority. Robbing our public schools of resources so that private schools can operate at taxpayer expense is bad for us and bad for our children’s future.


