

Title 1 “Portability” and Vouchers



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Converting Title I funds to vouchers or a portable entitlement would harm students, communities, and undermine the public schools that enroll 9 out of 10 American children. There is no valid evidence that such schemes improve the performance of students.

Oppose Title I portability and vouchers – they are both problematic

- ▶ **Title I Portability – even to another public school – robs public schools of vital funding and resources.**
 - Portability is in direct conflict with the original intent of Title I. Title I of ESEA was written to target and counteract concentrations of poverty; the program is designed to combat the compounded impact of poverty on student learning. The very act of making Title I funds portable and leaving schools they were targeted to help, completely dilutes the ability of these limited federal funds to combat concentrations of poverty.
- ▶ **Vouchers take dollars from our public schools to fund private schools at taxpayer expense.**
 - Instead of taking taxpayer funds away from public schools and handing them over to private schools, we should enhance opportunities that help equip all students for college and careers.
- ▶ **Portability and vouchers further gaps between the haves and have not's – creating another federal system of winners and losers much like an over-reliance on competitive grants**
 - Many students, particularly those in rural or remote locations, would not be able to attend another school, public or otherwise, simply because there are no other schools from which to choose. This sets up an uneven playing field for students in states with **any** rural communities, but especially for states like Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming.
 - Transportation availability and access present other impediments to students with regard to portability, regardless of geographic location, discriminating among those who can avail themselves of transportation options and those who can't.
 - Portability and vouchers mean only a few may benefit at the expense of many.
- ▶ **Portability would create a new unnecessary federal bureaucracy replete with burdensome administrative and accounting problems for local districts.**
 - Portability would create a bookkeeping system that would be astronomically burdensome. School systems would need to significantly modify—if not completely overhaul—how they keep their financial records. School budgets are set far in advance to allow for the extensive planning needed to hire educators and arrange classes. Portability would create constant disruptions in this school planning and budgeting because of an unknown number of students who may change schools during the year. The federal government should not add to existing administrative and accounting challenges facing 15,000 local school districts.
- ▶ **If Congress really intends to help disadvantaged students....**
 - Sufficiently funding Title I, Part A would be a real step the federal government could take to address current inequities in school funding.
 - We know what investments will improve our schools and prepare our students to succeed in the global economy of the 21st century: early childhood education, smaller class sizes, up-to-date textbooks and technology, and a greater emphasis on reading, math, science and technology.