



2019 Election: What's at stake for Kentucky Students?

School Voucher schemes threaten Kentucky's Public Schools

The Kentucky Constitution requires the General Assembly to provide for an efficient system of common schools and further establishes that no portion of any fund or tax may be appropriated or used by any church, sectarian or denominational school. This high standard placed on our elected officials by the constitution assures every Kentucky student has access to a free and appropriate public-school education.

Despite these constitutional guarantees many Kentucky politicians have tried to direct precious public-school funds away from our classrooms through creative funding schemes like tuition tax credits and scholarship organizations. No matter what you call them any effort to redirect public school funds to private a parochial school is a voucher and undermines our constitutionally mandated system of free and appropriate public school education.

Vouchers do nothing to assure that that all children are guaranteed access to a great public school. They not only divert public tax dollars to private schools that are not held accountable to the public, but they also harm our kids by giving tax credits to wealthy donors which equals less available resources for our schools.

School Voucher schemes do not improve student achievement

Voucher supporters like to claim that they somehow improve student achievement and force competition in the educational space. Unlike public schools, private schools can and do; limit their enrollment, discriminate in their admission on the basis of race, student achievement, disciplinary history and athletic ability. The expel students at any time throughout the school year without dues process and often refuse admission to students with special needs. As if this weren't bad enough, private schools often refuse administer state tests, don't comply with open meetings and open records law and do not require their teachers to be certified or qualified.