
Texas Association of School Administrators

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Senate Committee on Education
P.O. Box 12068
440 Sam Houston Building
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Interim Charge #6: School Choice Programs, Education Tax Credits, and
Taxpayer Savings Grants

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) continue to oppose vouchers, education tax credits, tuition reimbursements, taxpayer savings grants, and any other program that diverts public tax dollars to privately run schools. As you are aware, private schools are exempt from state and federal academic and financial accountability requirements. The lack of transparency and noncompliance with the state's open meetings and open records acts further exacerbate our members' concerns regarding accountability to Texas taxpayers.

Vouchers or taxpayer savings grants have the same purpose and effect. They divert critical state dollars from public schools. They eliminate public accountability. They give choice to private schools, not parents. They create a new state-funded school system that will leave behind disadvantaged and special needs students. And, whether vouchers or taxpayer savings grants lead to increased student performance will always be speculative because private schools do not report student achievement data to the Texas Education Agency.

As Texas leads the nation in job growth, our public schools must have the resources necessary to prepare Texas students to be competitive in an international economy. Diverting public tax dollars to private schools with no academic or financial accountability will not accomplish that goal. Instead, it will lead to less funding for public schools.

We urge your continued support of Texas' public schools and opposition to programs that divert public tax dollars to privately run schools.

Sincerely,



Ramiro Canales
Assistant Executive Director
Governmental Relations
Texas Association of School Administrators



Jackie Lain
Associate Executive Director
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