



VOUCHERS

We believe that the public needs public schools.

If you agree, WRITE your legislators. Let them know the following about vouchers:

Student Achievement

- There is **NO evidence** that vouchers improve student achievement.
- Private schools do not require teachers to achieve certification.
- When private schools are compared to public schools and several factors are controlled, public school students often outperform their private school peers

Most People Don't Like Vouchers

- 72% of public school parents prefer to reform their current public school rather than provide public money for private institutions.
- In a bi-partisan survey, providing families with a voucher ranked 12th out of 14 possible initiatives to improve public schools.
- **In every instance where a statewide ballot initiative on vouchers has occurred, vouchers have been overwhelmingly defeated.**

Costs to Georgia's Citizens

- It is fiscally irresponsible to sanction a voucher program, particularly during this economic downturn when Georgia's public schools are chronically underfunded.
- There are no cost savings because fixed expenses still exist; salaries and benefits, school transportation, maintenance and operations.
- With vouchers, Georgia citizens will be forced to fund two school systems: one private and one public. Unless 19-20 children transfer from the same grade at the same school, schools will continue to have to fund the same number of classrooms, pay teachers, provide books and learning resources for students, etc. The costs to Georgia citizens only increases with vouchers.

What Public Schools Promise

- Public Schools are ACCOUNTABLE to taxpayers and parents.
- Public schools are legally required to hold open meetings and adhere to specific licensing and curriculum standards; private schools are not required to be open and transparent to taxpayers.
- Vouchers would require the creation of more government involvement and take away much needed resources from community-based public schools that enroll all children, regardless of their background, abilities, or special needs.

GAE's Recommended Alternatives to Vouchers

Implement strategies proven to be successful in other state public schools—smaller class sizes; highly trained teachers and administrators; active parental and community involvement; adequate and equitable school funding; provide up-to-date textbooks, access to technology, and safe learning environments; and fund pre-school and after school programs.

These are strategies that work.

To learn more about GAE's voucher position and what you can do to help, visit www.gae.org.

"We're the faces on education's front line.
We exist to support, protect, and strengthen those who nurture Georgia's children."