

Public Schools Have Not Failed. Politicians Have Failed Public Schools.

Beginning with the Reagan administration, U.S. Presidents have either knowingly or unconsciously undermined public schools by promoting charters and/or vouchers. Democrat and Republican presidents are guilty. Congress has been complicit with this wrong turn in public education policy.

At the state level, many governors (possibly most) and legislatures have joined the feds in impairing the great American common school. Under-funding of public school districts has been exacerbated by the drain of common school funds into charters, vouchers and direct funds to private schools. Organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and Buckeye Institute have aggressively influenced state officials to neglect the common school system.

From the beginning of the public common school, students, via the common system, in every generation have developed into participating citizens making the nation the envy of the world community. The public common school system is the primary factor in accomplishing the ideal of “one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,” as opposed to pathways to tribalism.

Charters and vouchers spawn disunity and social conflict in communities, states, and the nation.

Federal and state politicians are the problem with education—not the public common schools.