

The purpose of the first universal voucher program in the USA was to stop integration of black and white students after the US Supreme Court decision in Brown.

On June 26, 1959, Prince Edward County (Virginia) closed public schools to avoid desegregation. The Prince Edward County Board of Education refused to fund public schools, which refusal continued for five years.

White students attended private schools using tax vouchers. Black students were excluded from private schools. In 1964, the US Supreme Court outlawed the voucher arrangement in Prince Edward County.

The voucher movement had a sordid beginning: avoidance of integration. One of the claims in the EdChoice voucher lawsuit is that private school vouchers make segregation in public schools worse.

The voucher enthusiasts have not counted the social cost of their universal voucher victory.