

Education privatizers cleverly choose words that mask their agenda

The education provisions in the Constitutions of the fifty states have faithfully led to the establishments of common school systems throughout the nation. The combination of state and local funding has typically not been adequately and equitably sufficient to satisfy the requirement of the respective Constitutions. (The school funding system in at least 45 states has been litigated and often more than once.)

Beginning in the early 1980's federal politicians, particularly President Reagan, expressed concerns about the need for improving the quality of public education. In that era, school funding litigation was moving through the judiciary in several states. Regardless of the outcome of the court cases, states appropriated more funds for public education. In this context of court-forced increases in school funding, some federal and state politicians began seeking cheaper alternatives to the public system. Citizens have generally been supportive of the public system; hence, some politicians started attacking the efficacy of the public system to turn citizens against it. The bottom line of all of this is that politicians in most states were unwilling to support the public common school at a constitutional level; thus, they sought cheaper privatization alternatives. However, as education privatization unfolded, the total cost of education increased due to the inefficiencies of multiple systems. The public common school system has suffered as a result.

President Reagan's 1985 [Nation At Risk](#) bogus report was crafted in a way to convince people that public education was a national security issue. A later federal report (Sandia) debunked [Nation at Risk](#), but Bush 41 buried the Sandia Report.

When [Nation at Risk](#) was issued, Reagan said he was pleased that the report recommended vouchers (which it didn't)! President Bush 41, in sync with Reagan's flawed report, promoted vouchers throughout his 4-year term.

Every president since Reagan has promoted policies that favor privatization of education. This has empowered education privatizers to sow the seeds of discord against the public system and thus, to expand privatization.

In this context the privatizers have developed a set of words and phrases that are meant to deceive unsuspecting citizens. Some of their clever, devious twists of terms:

Scholarships—(instead of vouchers)

Choice—(instead of privatization)

Government schools—(instead of public, common schools)

Funding students—(instead of the system)

Customers—(instead of families and students)

Parent choice—(instead of private school chooses)

Education freedom—(instead of private schools are free to ignore many of the rights of students)

The privatizers have been successful in deceiving the public repeating *ad infinitum* their clever, devious words and phrases.