

More discourse on that federal tax credits (school voucher) program.

An article by Senator Mark Kelly, Senior U.S. Senator from Arizona, and a new [Public Funds Public Schools](#) report: "How California can respond to the threat of private school vouchers" provides context to the federal tax credits (school voucher) program.

The public common school system in America has been under ongoing assault since President Reagan's bogus [Nation at Risk](#) report; however, the public common school has survived this 43-year assault.

After 4-plus decades of assault on public education, the general public is now en masse rising up in support of public school and against unconstitutional school voucher programs.

New PFPS Report Calls on California to Reject Private School Vouchers and Continue Strong Investment in Public Schools

Author: PFPS

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A new Public Funds Public Schools report for California advocates, [How California Can Respond to the Threat of Private School Vouchers](#), explains the dangers vouchers pose; highlights recent, concerning pro-voucher developments; and provides recommendations and resources on how to keep California voucher free.

The report describes the numerous harms of private school vouchers, including significant impacts on specific student populations in California, such as rural students, students with disabilities, and multilingual learners. It also discusses past and present efforts to establish a California voucher program via ballot measures and legislation.

Importantly, the report underscores the newest voucher threat to public education – the Trump Administration's federal voucher program, which aims to force private school vouchers on states that have historically rejected them. The report concludes by providing timely resources and tools for California's public school advocates.

PFPS urges California to reject the federal voucher program, which would divert critical funding from public schools that welcome all students. The private schools that would benefit from federal vouchers do not produce better educational outcomes and often blatantly discriminate against children and families.

"While California has time and again staved off the establishment of any voucher programs in the state, the federal voucher program poses a new danger," said Katrina Reichert, Staff Attorney at Education Law Center. "California should continue to lead the way in rejecting *all* private education vouchers, including the federal voucher program, and instead reaffirm its commitment to free and open public schools that serve the needs of all students."

[When 'School Choice' Is No Choice At All](#)

Public schools will pay the price for Trump's federal education tax credit.

April 26, 2026 1:07 pm ET

Your editorial "[Mark Kelly's Bad Education Choice](#)" (April 18) misses some key facts. We can all agree on one thing: Every parent wants their kid to get a quality education that sets them up to succeed. There's no better path to the middle class than our public schools. I'm the son of two cops. I went to public schools from kindergarten through the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. That system gave me a shot, and every kid deserves the same, no matter where they grow up. Massive voucher programs threaten that.

Take my state. Arizona's universal voucher program now costs about \$1 billion a year and is growing. In your editorial, you note that's only 8% of the state's education budget, but that billion dollars is [forcing real tradeoffs](#) in the state budget, like cuts to community colleges and water infrastructure in a state facing a severe drought. Meanwhile, more than half of voucher recipients were already being privately educated. That means in Arizona hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are going to subsidize private tuition for families who were already paying for it.

The federal tax credit your editorial defends isn't free, either. You acknowledge this reality when you [criticize](#) clean energy tax credits. With these education tax credits, the cost could reach as high as \$50 billion in lost revenue in a single year. That adds to the federal deficit and will likely largely benefit wealthier Americans' taxes because the credit is nonrefundable. Likewise, because the scholarships can go to households with up to 300% of the area median income, it will subsidize families who can already afford to spend thousands out of pocket to send their kids to private schools.

And public schools across the country will pay a price. When students leave, funding drops. Schools cut programs and staff, sometimes creating a downward spiral. It's [happening](#) in Arizona now. Then what "choice" does a parent have when their local school closes? I support parents who choose private school or homeschooling for their kids. But if we want better outcomes for everyone—higher scores, higher graduation rates—the answer isn't to take resources out of public schools, it's to make them better.

I refuse to accept that in the richest country in the history of the world, only a small percentage of our kids get a good education. We should aim higher. My dream when I was a kid was to become an astronaut. I got to achieve that. Every kid deserves the chance to chase their dream too, and that starts with good public schools.

Sen. Mark Kelly (D., Ariz.)

Washington

[When 'School Choice' Is No Choice At All - WSJ](#)