

Fact Sheet regarding the new Federal Voucher Program by In the Public Interest (ITPI)

The federal government and many of the 50 state governments in the U.S. are in the process of replacing the public common school system with private education ventures.

The feds have recently put forth a voucher scheme that will soon reek with low education results, financial corruption, and a great deal of harm to the public common school system.

ITPI explains.

[The New Federal Voucher Program Fact Sheet](#)

Your tax dollars at work, undermining public education.

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[Image](#)

Education | Vouchers

The [National Coalition for Public Education](#) (NCPE) has been monitoring the rollout of the “Education Freedom Tax Credit,” the federal dollar-for-dollar refund for money spent fueling the private school industry—the schools and the scholarship granting organizations that will feed upon the public funds. Following a recent Treasury [department preview](#) of the program’s long-awaited regulations, NCPE [published a fact sheet](#) well worth reading, that lays out the harm to public schools this program poses. Of course, such harms go well beyond the impact to public schools themselves. Public education is the foundation of a functioning democracy and a thriving economy.

Among the facts about the tax credit;

- This is a private school voucher program, championed by Project 2025, Besty DeVos, Senator Ted Cruz and others, designed to funnel public funds into unaccountable K-12 private and religious schools.
- Opt-in states cannot put conditions on the program that would change this fact. States cannot transform this into a program that solely supports public school students.
- Private schools that accept vouchers under the federal tax credit voucher program do not provide the same civil rights and protections as public schools, such as those in Titles IV and VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and the Elementary and Secondary Education of 1965 (ESEA).
- Students with disabilities will lose many protections and rights if they use a voucher through this program to attend a private school, including those in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Basic academic accountability and reporting requirements such as annual comparable testing for K-12 students, monitoring of high school graduation rates, and oversight for struggling schools are absent from this program.
- Private school voucher programs are rooted in the effort to resist school integration and preserve racial segregation after the Brown v. Board decision. Today, these programs can exacerbate already high levels of de-facto school segregation.
- The official Congressional estimate finds that this program will cost taxpayers **\$25.9 billion** over ten years. Other estimates for this uncapped federal program are as high as \$51 billion annually. These taxpayer funds could all be directly put into public schools if Congress repealed the voucher program and reinvested these funds.

- This program requires taxpayers in rural areas to foot the bill for a program that is largely inaccessible to them, as rural areas have little, if any, access to private schools.
- With extremely high-income eligibility – about \$500,000 annually for a family of four in the DC-metro area alone – this program will underwrite private school for wealthy families.
- There are no meaningful protections for waste fraud and abuse, despite the fact that state universal voucher programs have lost track of hundreds of millions of dollars, and paid for espresso machines, and tickets to Disney World.
- The program privileges contributions to private school vouchers over charitable causes. It allows taxpayers to shift up to \$1,700 of their tax obligation to SGOs and get a full refund via a tax credit in return.
- Over 160, national, state, and local education, civil rights, disability rights, and religious freedom organizations have called on Congress to repeal the federal voucher program.

For more information on the federal tax credit private school voucher program's many harms, please visit the [National Coalition for Public Education's website](#) and the [Public Funds Public Schools Project](#).

[READ THE ENTIRE FACT SHEET](#)