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American Civil Liberties Union of Texas  
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American Jewish Congress  
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Americans United for Separation of Church & State  
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Delta Kappa Gamma Texas  
Jewish Federation of San Antonio Community Relations Council  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Parents for Public Schools of Houston  
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People for the American Way Foundation  
Texas Advocacy, Inc.  
Texas AFL-CIO  
Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented  
Texas Association of Community Schools  
Texas Association of School Administrators  
Texas Association of School Boards  
Texas Association of Secondary School Principals  
Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission  
Texas Classroom Teacher Association  
Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education  
Texas Elementary Principals & Supervisors Association  
Texas AFT  
Texas Freedom Network  
Texas IMPACT  
Texas Public School Relations Association  
Texas State Teachers Association

# The COALITION for PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Private School Vouchers: An Experiment Tax Payers Can't Afford*

## The Case Against Special Education Vouchers

**Either You're For Accountability or You're Not:** Vouchers would send taxpayer dollars to private schools that are *not accountable to the public* for producing results.

**Vouchers Would Be a Step Backwards in Serving Students with Disabilities:** Over the past thirty years, federal and state laws have evolved to ensure that students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education; private schools are not required to provide the legal procedures mandated by federal and state laws to protect the rights and interests of students with disabilities.

**Vouchers Promote Segregation:** State and federal laws require public schools to educate students with disabilities in regular classes to the greatest extent possible in order to promote their education and foster social integration and tolerance; vouchers allow parents to segregate students with disabilities in private programs that cater only to students with special educational needs.

**Vouchers Provide Choice for Schools Not Students:** Vouchers increase choice for private schools, not students. Private schools have a profit motive to admit students who have the fewest educational challenges. Therefore, most private schools will not admit students with pervasive disabilities.

**Vouchers Provide Choice for Some, Not All:** Vouchers would disproportionately benefit students with disabilities who live in urban areas; students in rural areas would not have equal access to private schools that serve students with disabilities, as few such private schools exist in those areas.

**Vouchers would disadvantage low-income and middle income students.** School districts are required by federal law to provide transportation to students with disabilities; private schools are not. Vouchers will cover the cost of tuition and transportation to a private school. Consequently, wealthy families will benefit, but few low- or middle-income families will be able to take advantage of vouchers. During the 2007 school year, the majority (56%) of students in Texas public schools were economically disadvantaged.