

American Association of University Women

American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

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American Jewish Congress

Americans for Religious Liberty

Americans United for Separation of Church & State

Association of Texas Professional Educators

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

Pastors for Peace

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 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 Taxpayers Can't Afford*



## Voucher Bill Summaries, 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session

| Bill number                    | HB 716 / SB 183  | HB 41   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Sponsor(s)</b>              | HB 716: Rep. Riddle (R-Houston )<br>SB 183: Sen. Williams (R-The Woodlands)  | Rep. Corte (R-San Antonio)  |
| <b>Effective Date</b>          | Beginning with the 2009-10 school year   | Beginning with the 2009-10 school year  |
| <b>Code Provisions</b>         | Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J  | Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J   |
| <b>Eligibility Criteria</b>    | As filed, this bill would amend the Public Education Grant (PEG) provisions in the Education Code to allow a K-12 student who is eligible for special education and for whom the resident school district has developed an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to use a state-funded voucher to attend a private school. The parent of the student would have to apply to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) which would determine the student's eligibility for the voucher. | As filed, this bill would allow a student to use a voucher if the student: (1) is educationally disadvantaged; (2) is enrolled in one of the six largest school districts in the state based upon 2009-10 enrollment; (3) was enrolled in public school during the preceding school year or is enrolling in kindergarten or first grade for the first time; and, either (a) failed one of the most recent TAKS tests, or (b) is eligible for a Public Education Grant (PEG) but was rejected for a PEG transfer to another district.  |
| <b>Funding of Voucher</b>      | Equals the weighted state funding the resident school district would have been entitled to receive based on the student's special education placement (excluding state funding from the Available School Fund).  | Equals the total average per student funding (state and local) the resident school district would have been entitled to receive (excluding state funding from the Available School Fund). Private school cannot charge tuition or fees (other than a fee the resident school district could charge).  |
| <b>Admissions Criteria</b>     | Private schools which are accredited or which have filed an application for accreditation with an accrediting organization recognized by TEA can participate in the voucher program, as long as the schools do not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin or disability.   | Private schools which are accredited or which have filed an application for accreditation with an accrediting organization recognized by TEA (unless the commissioner of education waives the accreditation requirement for good cause) can participate in the voucher program, as long as the schools do not discriminate against applicants on the basis of the child's residence, race, national origin, ethnic background, religion, disability, academic achievement or athletic ability. A private school may refuse to enroll the child if the child has been expelled from a public school, or has a criminal record.   |
| <b>Accountability Criteria</b> | The private school must annually administer either the state accountability tests or a nationally norm-referenced test approved by TEA to the voucher students. The private school must report the student's test results to the student's parent and aggregated results of the tests to the public. The bill imposes no adverse consequences for poor performance on the tests.   | The private school must annually administer either the state accountability tests or a comparable test approved by the commissioner of education. The private school must report the school's performance on the tests for voucher students enrolled in that school. The commissioner must publish the school's performance information and make it available to the parents for review. The bill imposes no adverse consequences for poor performance on the tests, but requires the commissioner of education in consultation with the school districts whose students are eligible to participate in the voucher program to evaluate the program and report the evaluation and any recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2012. |