



The Honorable Sen. Pat Fallon
The Texas State Capitol – CAP GE.7
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Sen. Fallon,

The Coalition for Public Schools, which includes more than 40 organizations representing over three-million Texans, would like to welcome you to the Texas Senate. As a result of consistent, diligent efforts we have been able to defeat public school vouchers in Texas each legislative session for over 20 years.

As you are aware, vouchers are classified as anything that diverts public funds (through a tax credit, rebate, scholarship or any other means) to directly and indirectly subsidize a private education. Any funds either collected by the state or a local taxing entity, or funds that would have been collected but for a tax exemption or credit, are considered public funds.

Vouchers allow students to be privately educated at the expense of public taxpayers with no financial or academic accountability to taxpayers, communities, or the state. In some voucher programs, taxpayer dollars flow from the business to a third-party non-profit and then to a student to attend a private school. In other situations, taxpayer dollars flow directly from the state to the parent in the form of a rebate. Some voucher programs divert taxpayer dollars from the state directly to a private school. Types of vouchers include (but are not limited to) corporate tax scholarships, private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, property tax credits, franchise tax credits and more.

Vouchers and voucher-type schemes are particularly onerous for the following reasons:

- **Vouchers are a political distraction** from the state's top priority: providing a quality education to all Texas children.
- **Vouchers divert important resources** from the majority of Texas students to serve a small segment of children who could be served through existing public-school choice options.
- **Vouchers take public taxpayer funds** and divert them to pay for a private education, void of accountability, parental and student rights established in statute, class-size ratios, lunch programs, open enrollment and open meetings laws, etc.
- **Vouchers are experimental** and are not proven to be successful.
- **Vouchers have been ruled unconstitutional** in several states.

If vouchers are introduced in this legislative session, we hope we can depend on you to stand up for our nearly 5.4 million Texas public school-children and vote no on vouchers or voucher type schemes. On the following pages you will find my contact information and the list of



organizations that are part of the Coalition for Public Schools. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Thank you again for your service and for your future support of over five-million Texas public school-children!

Sincerely,

Charles Luke, Ed.D.
Coalition for Public Schools
M: 940-768-8594
Email: charlesluke43@gmail.com

Members

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American Civil Liberties Union of Texas
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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 Teachers Association
Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education
Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association
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Texas PTA
Texas Retired Teachers Association
Texas School Coalition
Texas School Public Relations Association
Texas Speech-Language-Hearing-Association
Texas State Teachers Association
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