



SB 1455 Virtual Vendor Voucher

Summary: SB 1455 attempts to expand full-time virtual education without addressing the poor performance of virtual schools and creates a school voucher. The Coalition for Public Schools opposes SB 1455 for the following reasons:

- ***SB 1455 removes the existing limit on the number of virtual courses.*** This bill expands the number of virtual courses that may be taken beyond the current limit of three.
- ***No positive track record for virtual schools*** – SB 1455 diverts public funds away from successful schools to full-time online learning which has been shown to be ineffective as an educational method. Recent research from the [National Education Policy Center](#) and [Raise Your Hand Texas](#) shows that virtual schools consistently lag far behind brick and mortar schools in performance.
- ***SB 1455 removes the prohibition against enrolling students who have not previously been enrolled in public schools*** – SB 1455 allows private and corporate vendors to begin the education of a Texas students without that student having been previously enrolled in a public school. With state funds going directly to a vendor or private entity, this is the very definition of a voucher.

This bill was changed to remove other provisions that directly made it a voucher on its way through the Senate. While the Coalition is supportive of blended learning and the use of technology in education, we believe that SB 1455 in its current form create a voucher. We urge your opposition to the bill.