



SB 1968 is a Tax Credit Voucher

Summary: SB 1968 would create the Family Educational Relief Program which would allow parents of eligible private or home-schooled children to receive reimbursements for educational expenses directly from the state. The money would be distributed by Certified Educational Assistance Organizations which would be required to be non-profit (501(C)3) organizations. The program is funded by allowing entities a credit against the premium tax liability to the state.

- **Provides a direct payment from the comptroller to private non-profit organizations** – Direct payments from the public trust to private entities – even for redistribution to taxpayers – qualifies as a voucher. The state legislature has repudiated these schemes for over 25 years.
- **No accountability for voucher tax dollars** – Under SB 1968, private schools would not be required to meet state curriculum requirements or maintain the same fiscal accountability as public schools. Texans overwhelmingly believe that schools that receive tax dollars should be accountable for how they are spent, but the schools that receive tax credit vouchers would not be accountable to taxpayers.
- **Subsidizes the wealthy at the expense of others that can't afford it** - Tax credit voucher schemes like SB 1968 are inherently designed to be used by those who generate enough income to “need” a tax break. Economically disadvantaged parents would not be able to use a voucher unless they could afford pay the difference between the voucher check and the actual tuition, in addition to the cost of transportation. Other taxpayers would pay the price for vouchers that would primarily benefit those who could afford expensive private schools.
- **Students with disabilities give up their rights** – Under SB 1968, “students with a disability attending an eligible nonpublic school may not receive the services a student with a disability attending a public school is entitled to receive under federal and state law”. This results in a loss of federal and state protections for these students that have been put in place to ensure that they receive a quality education.

The Coalition for Public Schools considers this a tax credit voucher bill since there is an overt transference of taxpayer funds to private entities. We urge opposition to this bill.