

PROTECT IDAHO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

From Private
School Vouchers

Strong, inclusive, adequately-resourced public schools are critical to the academic success and college and career opportunities of Idaho students. Vouchers that would divert taxpayer funds away from public schools and into private and religious schools would undermine Idaho's public education system and stifle access and opportunity for students. Vouchers are harmful to students and public education.

Idaho kids deserve better.



PROTECT
IDAHO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Private School Vouchers Divert Resources from Public Schools

- Idaho is already 49th of 50 states in per pupil spending and can't afford to lose more public money
- Public tax dollars should not be used to pay for students to attend private schools
- Idaho can't afford to support two education systems—one public and one private
- We should focus on investing in public schools, where 97% of Idaho children go, not on diverting money to the 3% who attend private schools

Private Schools Lack Accountability, Access, and Opportunity

- Private schools are not accountable to taxpayers
- Private schools are not required to provide services like meals, transportation, and special education services, so most do not
- Private schools can reject students based on economic status, academic achievement, disabilities, English proficiency, immigration status, sexual orientation or gender
- Public schools welcome all students and strive to serve and educate each one

Rural Schools Would be Particularly Hard Hit

- Vouchers will shift money from rural public schools to urban private schools
- Public schools are the heart and soul of rural communities
- Rural schools would be decimated by reductions to Idaho's general fund, which is the primary source of public school funding

Higher Taxes? Or Less Money for Public Schools?

- There are only two options if money is diverted from Idaho's general fund—raise taxes to bridge the gap, or reduce resources for public schools, students, and teachers
- More and higher local levies are extremely likely—and 75% of Idaho districts are already relying on “supplemental” levies
- Vouchers are a wolf in sheep's clothing. Whether they are called education savings accounts (ESAs), tuition tax credits or any other innocuous name, the bottom line is the same—they take taxpayer money from public schools to use in private and parochial schools

Contact your local legislators today!

For more information, visit www.idahoea.org/vouchers/