

# The COALITION for PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Private School Vouchers: An Experiment Tax Payers Can't Afford*

## Why Private School Vouchers Are NOT Needed

### *Existing Public School Choice Options Under Current Law*

“School Choice” is a term often used to describe a wide array of voucher programs aimed at paying for a private education at taxpayer expense. State and federal laws already give Texas students many choices among our free public schools.

Under current law, Texas students have the following public school choice options:

- **Intradistrict Transfers:** Texas school boards may adopt intradistrict transfer policies that allow students to transfer between schools within the same district. According to the Texas Association of School Boards, nearly all of the approximately **475 multicampus** districts in Texas have adopted intradistrict transfer policies.
- **Interdistrict Transfers:** Additionally, approximately **1,000 districts** have adopted interdistrict transfer policies, allowing a student to transfer to another school district.
- **Public Education Grant (PEG) programs:** Students attending a “low-performing” school are eligible to attend a higher-performing school in the same district or in another district under the Public Education Grant (PEG) program.
- **No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) provision:** A student attending a school that does not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years is eligible to transfer to a higher-performing public school in the same district or in another district.
- **Magnet Schools:** School boards may approve the creation of a magnet school/program in the district. Magnet schools generally have a particular pedagogical focus, like art or technology, or follow a different structural organization, such as a Montessori magnet school.
- **Charter Schools:** A student may apply to enroll in a charter school. These are publicly funded schools that are subject to fewer state regulations than traditional public and magnet schools.
- **Students with disabilities** and their families have additional choice options such as dual enrollment in both the public and private schools for 3 and 4 year-olds, and district-funded private school placement if the student’s IEP team determines the district cannot provide an appropriate education. In addition, if a student with a disability is placed by his/her parents in a private placement, federal law requires districts to set aside a proportionate amount of federal funds to provide services in the private school setting. Texas public schools already set aside \$8.8 million annually for these purposes.