



WEA Voucher Policy Language

Vouchers (et al) and the Use of Public Funds for Private Purposes

The Washington Education Association believes that the paramount duty of Washington state is to provide stable and ample public education funding for all children residing in the state. The Association affirms that each and every child in Washington has a right to a free and public education and that ‘all children’ means without exception.

The Association also believes in financing pre-K, elementary, and secondary public education directly from public funds, and opposes any educational funding systems that would allocate those public funds to either individuals (e.g., school vouchers, education savings accounts, tax credit scholarships or deductions) or non-public programs (e.g., homeschooling/homeschools; online or virtual schooling outside of public schools; sectarian or nonsectarian private schools; charter schools; private or charter micro-schooling or learning pods). Such educational funding systems undermine public education, reduce the support needed to amply fund public education, cause racial, economic, and social segregation of students, and threaten the constitutional separation of church and state which is a cornerstone of American democracy.

The Association further believes that educational funding systems that allocate public funds to individuals and non-public agencies providing pre-K, elementary, and secondary education (e.g., vouchers, coupons, ‘scholarships’, tuition tax credits, educational savings accounts) must be subject to all accountability measures and regulations required of public schools, including laws preventing discrimination on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, and the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability.