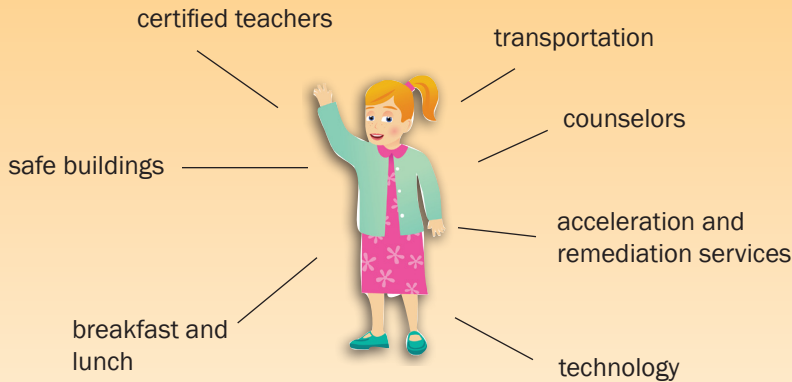


Why Tuition Tax Credits (aka Vouchers) are Bad for NC Public Schools

Tuition tax credits allow corporations to make "scholarship" donations and receive a tax credit, or allow individual families to receive a tax credit for sending a child to a private school or for homeschooling.

By law, public schools must provide:

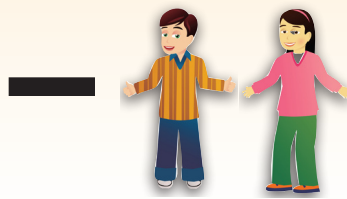


Private schools and homeschools don't.

Plus, religious private schools can discriminate based on religion, sexual orientation, and - of course - income level.

When tax credits take kids out of public school classrooms...

Example



11% Fewer Resources

NC public schools receive \$9,220 in state, federal and local funding per child (including lunch and transportation).¹ For a classroom of 18 kids, that's \$165,960.

If two kids use tax credits/vouchers to leave the classroom, \$18,440 goes away.

The public school classrooms must continue to deliver, *by law*, all the services listed above with 11% less funding. (You can't cut a teacher, a building or a bus by 11%, so the cost of services per student goes up.)

(Charter schools are public schools. Tax credits hurt them, too!)

Even with tax credits (vouchers), private education is still not affordable for low-income families...

Private middle school tuition & fees	\$9,188 ²
Daily lunch from home	180 ³
Transportation	407 ⁴
Total Cost	\$9,775
Less tax credit scholarship	\$ 4,000
Cost for low-income family	\$ 5,775

Public school is FREE!

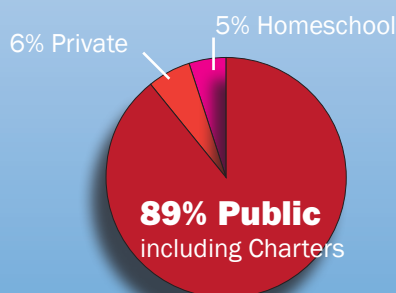
Is this really a "choice" for low-income families?

...and without proven benefits.



Students who use vouchers to attend private schools show **no better academic achievement** than their public school peers.⁵ There is no comprehensive data about homeschool performance.⁶

Tax credits (vouchers) hurt many more families than they benefit.



Tax credits and vouchers offer little to needy families and **hurt the schools that the vast majority of NC children attend.** Families have a right to choose private education — but not at the expense of public schools.

¹ NC DPI "Facts and Figures 2011-12"

² Average for private middle school in Asheville, based on survey of 8 schools.

³ Assumes \$1/day for 180 days.

⁴ Assumes 4 miles round trip, 180 days @ IRS rate of \$.565/mile

⁵ Center on Education Policy, *Keeping Informed About School Vouchers*, July 2011

⁶ "Homeschooling Research & Scholarship," Indiana University, http://www.indiana.edu/~homeeduc/three_crucial_points.html