

- Vouchers only provide up to a maximum of \$4200/student/year. Every family receiving a voucher would be obligated to pay the difference, leaving low-income families to shoulder an unfair and disproportionate amount of the burden.
- Private school accountability to taxpayers is weak! Public schools are much more accountable.
 - Private schools do not have to report student progress or administer State required tests.
 - Private schools are not subject to State accountability rules, including the A-F school performance grading system.
 - There is no provision for public officials to monitor classroom instruction or review instructional materials or curriculum being provided to students at taxpayer expense.
- A private school is only required to conduct a financial review if it receives more than \$300,000 in scholarship grants.
- Only the highest decision-making staff member at a participating private school would be subject to a background check.
- Aggregated standardized test performance data of voucher recipients is not part of the public record and must only be reported if a private school has more than 25 students receiving vouchers.
- Private schools accepting vouchers are only required to provide an annual written progress report to a student's parent or guardian.
- Students must live in a household where the income level does not exceed 225% of the federal poverty level (\$53,000 for a family of 4). In 2014-15, this rises to 300% of the federal poverty level (\$71,000 for a family of 4). No other US program allows such high earning families to apply.
- Students must also meet one of the following criteria:
 - Enrolled full-time in a public school.
 - Received a voucher in the previous school year.
 - Living in foster care or in the household of an active duty member of the US military.
 - Entering kindergarten or first grade. This essentially provides a "gift" for families that never intended for their children to attend public schools.
- Vouchers are awarded based on the order in which applications are received--not based on relative need.
- Information about vouchers and the application process will be available on a Web site. The bill does not indicate how families who do not have easy access to the Internet will obtain the information.
- Heavy administrative costs: up to 1% of the total sum allocated for vouchers (\$400K in 2013-14; \$500K in 2014-15) may be used solely for program administrative costs.
- Based on proposed program funding, if families received the maximum amount of the voucher (\$4200) then only 9,524 students could be served in year one and only 11,905 in year two. NC's public schools serve nearly 1.5 million students; school vouchers are not fairly distributed and offer extremely limited choice to families.

Over two years, this program will cost \$90 million. Imagine what our public schools could do to improve student achievement for ALL children with that money!