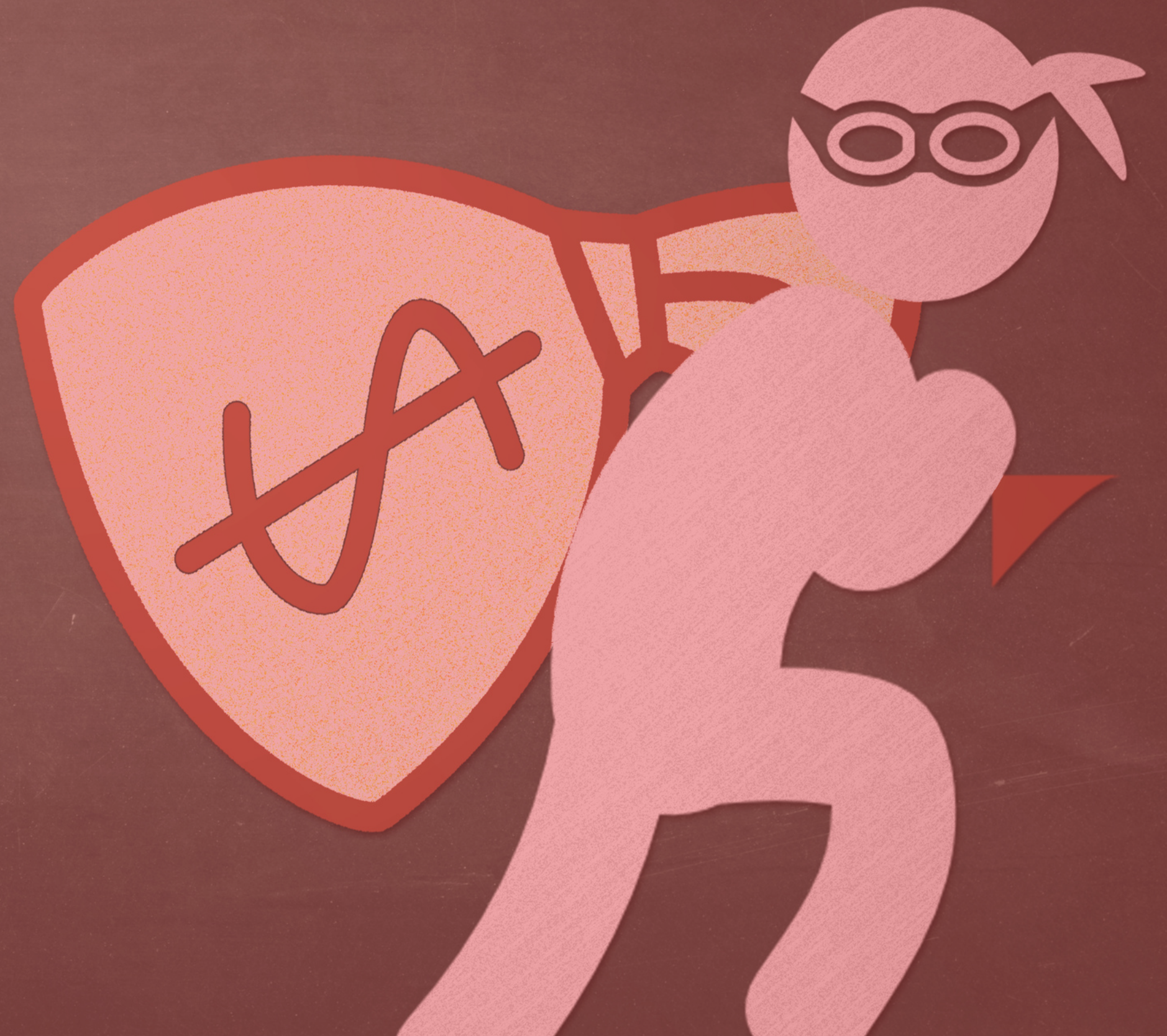


Public Money Public Schools

#PublicMoneyPublicSchools

What are vouchers?

- Vouchers divert public taxpayer dollars to private schools and/or related expenses with little to no accountability.
- Many times those funds are taken directly from the public education budget.



ENN Supported Lawsuit Against “Education Savings Account” Vouchers

Lopez v. Schwartz

In 2015 Educate Nevada Now and The Rogers Foundation supported parents who sued AG Schwartz to prevent ESA's (Education Savings Accounts) from taking critically needed funding away from public schools and lowering the quality of education for Nevada children.

The parents alleged that the voucher law violated the Nevada Constitution by diverting funds that were allocated to public schools via the state budget to private schools. The Education Clause of the Nevada Constitution prohibits using allocated public education dollars for any other purpose.



Lead plaintiff, Electra McGrath-Skrzydlewski

Voucher Program Defeated

On September 29, 2016, the Supreme Court ruled that the ESA voucher program is unconstitutional because it violates the prohibition on use of public school funds for other purposes, and permanently blocked its implementation.

But the Fight Continues...

Voucher proponents continue to push methods of funding vouchers, which go by many names:

“Opportunity Scholarships” or **“Tax Credit Scholarships”**- Tax credits for business that “donate” to voucher granting organizations. Diverts expected tax revenue to private schools.

“Education Savings Accounts” or **“Education Freedom Accounts”** - Often funded through direct state budget allocations.

Result is the same: Tax dollars that could support public schools go to private schools.

Lopez case prevents using funds already allocated to public schools for vouchers, but does not prevent other methods of using public tax dollars to fund vouchers.



Opportunity Scholarships Already in Law in Nevada

- Businesses donate to voucher scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), that then pay for private school for applicants who are lower income.
- **Already mired in controversy**, with calls for greater accountability due to lack of transparency on student outcomes and the shady practices of SGOs.

Vouchers Do Not Improve Academic Outcomes

Poor Academic Outcomes Mean Vouchers Are NOT Money Well Spent.

Private schools don't necessarily improve student outcomes. For many years, studies of voucher programs across the country have found no improvement in student achievement. Studies in Washington, D.C. and Alabama found NO significant improvement in student test scores.

Studies in Louisiana, Indiana, and Ohio found that students who attended private schools using vouchers actually performed WORSE than their peers in public schools.



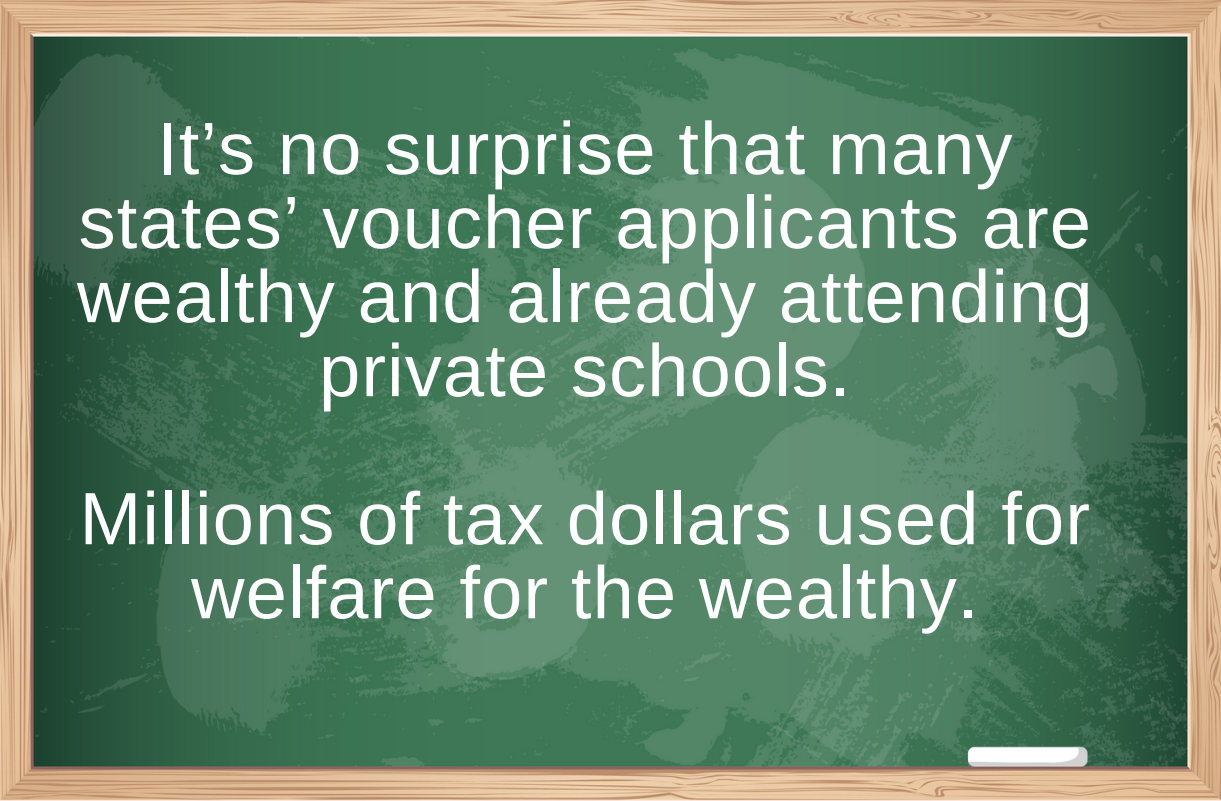
Nevada doesn't even require voucher students to take the same exams as public schools, so there's NO RELIABLE DATA on whether this scheme helps or hurts students.

Vouchers Are Still NOT Affordable

Most notable private schools cost a lot more than the voucher amount.

In addition to tuition typically costing well over the voucher amount, private schools have additional fees such as:

- **Application fees**
- **Admission fees**
- **Expensive uniforms**
- **Books**
- **Electives and many other additional fees.**



It's no surprise that many states' voucher applicants are wealthy and already attending private schools.

Millions of tax dollars used for welfare for the wealthy.

In addition they don't provide transportation or free lunch and breakfast. Even with vouchers, private schools remain out of reach for low income families. Many private schools cost from \$14,000 per year to \$31,000 per year.

Tuition at: Bishop - \$15,700. Adelson Education Camps - \$19,000. Meadows - \$31,000

(Not including additional fees which are in the thousands)



Vouchers Do Not Guarantee a Licensed Teacher

Private schools don't require licensed teachers.

An analysis by Educate Nevada Now found that of available data of educators in private schools **LESS THAN HALF were actually licensed to teach in Nevada.**

By school district standards that would mean that more than half of teachers at private schools would be considered substitutes.

Vouchers Do Not Work For the Community

PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS DIVERT SCARCE RESOURCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public schools in Nevada are chronically underfunded, with Nevada ranking 48th in the nation. Diverting much-needed funding from public schools to pay for private school vouchers makes that situation worse.



For example, the cost of Arizona's private school voucher program has increased to almost **one billion dollars leaving a major hole in the state's budget to support schools and even other services.**



Vouchers Do NOT Support Everyone

Private schools can discriminate against students for almost any reason.

Private schools can discriminate against students with special needs or behavioral issues, language differences, struggling grades, additional needs, inability to pay, and almost any other reason.

Religious schools can also discriminate against students based on their religion or lack thereof, LGBTQ status, and various other reasons.



**PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE
FOR ALL STUDENTS.**

Examples

Lake Mead Christian Academy - will not accommodate disabled children, stating that: "Private school children with disabilities do not have an individual entitlement to services they would receive if they were enrolled in a public school." Lake Mead Christian Academy specifically states that it "does not provide IEPs or 504 Plans," and "does not have a resource room, special education case managers, or the capacity to offer individualized instruction for students who may need additional support with learning or behavioral needs in the regular education setting."

The Church Academy admits it can't accommodate students with disabilities and claims that: "While we love delinquent and emotionally unstable children, the school is not equipped to meet their needs."

Examples

International Christian Academy - will reject an applicant or dis-enroll a student who is gay. The school reserves the right, “within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a student if the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home or the activities of the student are counter to or are in opposition to the Biblical lifestyle the school teaches. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, participating in, supporting or condoning sexual immorality, homosexual activity, [or] bisexual activity”

Liberty Baptist Academy requires all faculty to “believe in the sovereignty of the local church and in the doctrinal tenets which make [their] church Fundamental and Baptist.” Parents must attend Liberty Baptist Church services, and the school also requires students to “refrain from participating in worldly activities such as . . . homosexuality or other sexual perversions”

Vouchers Promote Segregation

VOUCHERS EXACERBATE SCHOOL SEGREGATION

Vouchers link back to a history of segregation under Jim Crow. In fact, analyses have shown voucher programs are more likely to increase school segregation than to promote integration or maintain the status quo.

For example, in Indiana, the voucher system favors more affluent white families. In Louisiana, white families have used vouchers to leave more diverse schools.

When Nevada initially opened Education Savings Accounts, mostly white and more affluent families that applied.

The Fight Continues

Groups funded by conservative and extremist dark money organizations continue to spend money in Nevada to lobby and deceive the community to push vouchers.

Examples:

Nevada School Choice Coalition (American Federation for Children), operating heavily in Nevada is funded by Betsy DeVos and other conservative groups.

Power 2 Parent - Heavy donations from national and local conservative funders.

Moms for Liberty - Starting a Nevada chapter with the goal of dismantling public education.

We Fight - We Win

Leader of conservative group Power 2 Parent tried twice to push ballot initiatives for private school vouchers.

Which we DEFEATED!



But We Need Support

- **Stay on top of the issue**
- **Call your legislators**
- **Educate your neighbors and family**
- **Reject candidates that support vouchers**
- **Advocate**



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EDUCATE NEVADA NOW
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